FBIS DAILY REPORT
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BOGACHEV CRITICIZES SOFAER REPORT ON ABM TREATY

LD150202 Moscow TASS in English 0130 GMT 15 May 87

["Pentagon Eager To Place Arms in Space" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 14 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev:

In an interview to the NBC television network U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger recently admitted that the further attempts of jurists of the State Department to substantiate the correspondence of the U.S. "Star Wars" program to the spirit and letter of the treaty on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems are doomed to failure and will only carry the Reagan administration to a slippery road. Therefore without further ado the Pentagon's chief proposed to start the militarisation of space regardless of who said what in 1972.

But a fire of criticism under which the plans for the militarisation of space came in the USA, warnings of a number of influential American legislators about the possibility of a confrontation between the Congress and the White House about financing of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" compelled the administration to look again for arguments in defense of its "broader interpretation" of the 1972 treaty in the juridical area. Legal adviser to the State Department Abraham Sofaer who had blundered earlier, was instructed to look for fresh approach and interpretation in defense of SDI.

As it should have been expected, the new report of the Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State, is compiled in such a way as to draw the conclusion about the legality of the preparation for "Star Wars" and declares that the U.S. program for large-scale ABM is in keeping with the provisions of the 1972 treaty. As refers the "freshness of approach" in the new report, it amounts to the fact that casuistic interpretation of absolutely unambiguous provisions of the text of the treaty is "borne up" with references to tendentiously selected pronouncements of Soviet participants in the talks, to "erroneous conclusions" of U.S. legislators and the failure of senators to grasp "certain nuances" during the discussion at the ratification of the Soviet-U.S. agreement.

In the 1985 report Sofaer and his team tried to distort the contents of agreed Statement D aimed at ensuring the implementation by the parties of their pledge not to deploy any ABM systems and their components except for a limited number of stationary land-based ABM systems in alimited area having a radius of one hundred and fifty kilometres. The new work by Sofaer contains the conclusion that agreed Statement D was "superfluous" and that it was almost by chance that it was included in the text. Contrary to this agreed statement, the authors of the report exert themselves to prove the "legality" of the creation and testing of ABM systems based on new physical principles -- laser beam, etc -- outside the limits of the area stipulated by the treaty.

It is characteristic that the authors of the report avoided using the word "space", apparently trying to gloss over their plans of the militarisation of near-earth space. And the plans of "Star Wars" envisage the deployment of hundreds and even thousands of units of strike arms in space. Meanwhile, under Article Five of the ABM Treaty each party undertakes not to develop, test, or deploy ABM systems or components which are sea-based, air-based, space-based or mobile land-based.

At a news conference on the occasion of the report's publication Paul Nitze, consultant to the President, and Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser to the State Department, declared that President Reagan is thoroughly studying the question of the United States adopting a "broader interpretation" of the ABM Treaty. They refused to answer questions of newsmen if the tests of new ABM systems planned by the Pentagon will violate the provisions of the Soviet-U.S. treaty.

Fearing, apparently, indignation of the public, the U.S. Administration decided to present the world its decision to turn outer space into an arena of the race of lethal armaments not at once but bit-by-bit.

OBUKHOV INTERVIEWED ON 'ZERO OPTION' PROPOSAL

AU141329 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 13 May 87 p 2

[Interview with Aleksey Obukhov, deputy head of the Soviet delegation at the talks on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva; report by NOVOSTI political commentator Spartak Beglov: "What Is New in Geneva?" -- date and place of interview not given]

[Text] "All prerequisites exist for the Soviet-U.S. treaty on eliminating medium-range missiles to become reality before the end of this year," Ambassador Aleksey Obukhov, deputy head of the USSR delegation at the talks on nuclear and space weapons, said in an interview. "If you consider that the Soviet Union has also proposed the elimination of operational and tactical missiles stationed in Europe, you must definitely agree with those who speak of a 'double zero option.' This reflects the radical character of our initiatives, which are fully founded on the understanding reached at the Soviet-U.S. summit in Reykjavik."

The day of our interview coincided with a major event -- with the opening of another round of Soviet-U.S. talks on strategic offensive weapons. On 5 May the Soviet delegation proposed to the U.S. delegation to start working out the "key provisions" relating to the 50-percent cut in the two sides' strategic offensive forces in conjunction with the solution of questions of reinforcing the regime of the ABM Treaty and with Soviet-U.S. talks on banning all nuclear tests.

One more event connected with the Soviet-U.S. dialogue deserves attention. On 4 May, at talks held concurrently in Geneva, preparation work was wound up regarding a joint draft agreement between the USSR and the United States on setting up nuclear risk reduction centers and regarding two protocols on this draft agreement. The texts of these documents will be submitted to the governments of the two countries for confirmation. But let us return to the talks on medium-range missiles in Europe. The exceptional interest these talks have aroused everywhere is understandable.

"A situation has arisen," Ambassador Aleksey Obukhov stressed, "in which -- thanks to the Soviet proposals -- the chance to achieve a breakthrough by signing, for the first time in history, an agreement on an actual reduction of nuclear arms has appeared on the horizon." He went on to point out that the Soviet side has taken into account all aspects it deems constructive in the U.S. document submitted earlier. This concerns, for example, the principle of gradual arms reduction, the same definition of the reduction of devices, keeping record of both deployed [rozvinuty] and undeployed devices, and adherence to the Reykjavik formula on eliminating all medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe within 5 years with each side keeping 100 warheads -- the USSR in its Asian part and the United States on its territory.

The Soviet side disagrees with some propositions that still remain in the U.S. concept. For example, it regards as unacceptable the proposal that in the first long-term stage only the Soviet Union would be eliminating its missiles, while the U.S. side would even be allowed to increase the number of its medium-range missiles.

"Our principle is clear! No one-sided advantages for anyone. Both sides must be obligated to become involved in the nuclear arms reduction process. The United States' attempt to rebuild the Pershing-2 missiles to shorten their range, and their plans to acquire the chance to switch cruise missiles from land bases to the sea and to deploy the remaining 100 warheads on medium-range missiles in Alaska, that is, within range of USSR territory, are all unacceptable. That would result in the creation of a dangerous new hotbed in that part of the world," Ambassador Aleksey Obukhov said.

In our talk we were naturally unable to get around the issue of the European countries' response to the Soviet proposals. The profound satisfaction of the broad public of self-explanatory. Viewed against this background, the attitude of the leadership of some NATO member states is at odds with logic.

I drew Aleksey Obukhov's attention to the following objection being raised in Bonn: Some government officials regard the elimination of [medium-range] nuclear missiles and of the operational and tactical missiles -- and, hence, the fact that the United States is deprived of the opportunity to deploy these weapons in Europe -- as undermining the strategy of "flexible response." They claim that this would turn the FRG into the theater of a nuclear war using tactical nuclear weapons.

"These are all contrived excuses," the Soviet diplomat said, "the aim of which is to impede the process of negotiations. Our ultimate ideal is the reduction of all nuclear arms in Europe to zero. The initiative of the Warsaw Pact member countries aimed at reducing all weapons and armed forces, including their tactical nuclear arms, clearly bears out our sincerity and consistency in this process. Aside from this, the Soviet Union supports the proposal of the CSSR and the GDR to create a nuclear-free corridor along the borderline between NATO and Warsaw Pact countries. We are resolved to undertake the guarantee for such an agreement and to remove our nuclear arms from this corridor."

Bonn and Paris claim that they cannot take a final stand on the Soviet proposals without being provided with detailed information about them.

"Also, these claims are contrived," the ambassador explained. "American representatives regularly visit the NATO staff in Brussels as well as the other capitals of Western Europe and, as we know, they inform their allies about what is going on in Geneva. We, too, broadly inform the international public about our proposals. They are discussed in detail in statements by the Soviet leadership. This is an integral part of implementing the principle of openness in our policy.

"The Soviet side came to the talks not to engage in idle debates but to work constructively and efficiently in order to find solutions and work out mutually acceptable positions in the interest of the speedy achievement of an agreement. To claim that an agreement on medium-range missiles suits only the interests of the Soviet Union is just as silly and unnatural as to say that only Russians cannot do without ozone," the ambassador said in concluding the interview.

PRAVDA REPORTS OPENING OF BLOC SECRETARIES CONFERENCE

PM131158 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conference of Secretaries of the Central Committees of the Socialist Countries' Communist and Workers' Parties"]

[Text] Bucharest, 12 May -- A conference of secretaries of the central committees of the communist and workers' parties of the socialist countries who are involved in organizational party work began work here today.

The conference was opened by E. Bobu, member of the Political Executive Committee and secretary of the RCP Central Committee, who welcomed the fraternal parties' representatives on behalf of the RCP Central Committee.

The conference is devoted to an exchange of opinions and experience on questions of strengthening political organizational work and improving the activity of party organs and organizations to increase the communists' responsibility for the fulfillment of the decisions of party congresses on socioeconomic development and the deepening of socialist democracy.

Taking part in the conference are: from the BCP -- Ch. Aleksandrov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee; from the MSZMP -- I. Horvath, secretary of the Central Committee; from the Communist Party of Vietnam -- Pham The Duyet, secretary of the Central Committee; from the Communist Party of Cuba -- J. Risquet Valdes, member of the Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat; from the SED -- H. Dohlus, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee; from the Lao People's Revolutionary Party -- Saman Vignaket, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee; from the MPRP -- B. Dejid, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee; from the PZPR -- J. Baryla, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee; from the RCP -- E. Bobu, member of the Political Executive Committee and secretary of the Central Committee; from the CPSU -- G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the Central Committee; and from the CPCZ -- M. Beno, secretary of the Central Committee.

From the Workers' Party of Korea, Kye Ung-tae, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, is taking part as an observer.

A.M. Subbotin, chief editor of the journal PROBLEMY MIRA I SOTSIALIZMA, is also taking part in the conference.

Razumovskiy Returns From Bucharest

PM141459 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation's Return"]

[Text] Bucharest, 13 May -- The CPSU delegation headed by G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which took part in the latest conference of secretaries of the central committees of socialist countries' fraternal parties for questions of party organizational work, departed here for Moscow today. The delegation consisted of N.A. Zolotarev, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Department; R.P. Fedorov, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee Department; and I.S. Shvets, leader of a group of consultants of the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Department.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by E. Bobu, member of the Political Executive Committee and secretary of the RCP Central Committee; N. Mihalache, deputy chief of an RCP Central Committee Department; and other officials.

Ye.M Tyazhelnikov, USSR ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Romania, was among the send-off party.

At Moscow airport the delegation was welcomed by A.I. Lukyanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; K.N. Mogilnichenko and M.N. Smirnovskiy, deputy chiefs of CPSU Central Committee departments; and senior officials from the CPSU Central Committee.

N.M. Ion, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the USSR, was among the welcoming party.

Communique Issued

PM141549 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 May 87 First Edition p 4

["Communique of the Conference of Fraternal Party Central Committee Secretaries" -- PRAVDA headline]

[Text] A conference of central committee secretaries from the communist and workers parties of the socialist countries concerned with questions of party organization work was held in Bucharest 12-13 May 1987. Taking part in it were:

From the BCP: C. Aleksandrov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the BCP Central Committee;

From the MSZMP: I. Horvath, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee;

From the SED: H. Dohlus, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee;

From the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]: J. Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and Central Committee Secretariat;

From the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]: Saman Vignaket, member of the LPRP Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the LPRP Central Committee;

From the MPRP: B. Dejid, member of the MPRP Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the MPRP Central Committee;

From the PZPR: J. Baryla, member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee;

From the RCP: E. Bobu, member of the RCP Political Executive Committee and secretary of the RCP Central Committee; and I. Stoian, candidate member of the RCP Political Executive Committee and secretary of the RCP Central Committee;

From the CPSU: G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee;

And from the CPCZ: M. Beno, secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee.

Kye Ung-tae, candidate member of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and secretry of the WPK Central Committee, took part in the conference as an observer on the WPK's behalf.

Also taking part in the conference's work were department chiefs, deputy chiefs, and other senior officials from the fraternal parties' central committees, and A.M. Subbotin, chief editor of the journal PROBLEMY MIRA I SOTSIALIZMA.

There was an extensive exchange of opinions and experience at the conference on questions of stepping up organizational and political work and improving the activity of party organs and organizations in enhancing communists' responsibility for the fulfillment of their party congress' resolutions on socioeconomic development and the deepening of socialist democracy.

Stressing the great importance of the decisions adopted by the congresses of the socialist countries' communist and workers parties, the conference participants exchanged information on the practice of work and the current tasks facing their parties in unswervingly implementing these decisions, as well as the programs and plans for the socioeconomic development of their countries. In this regard the great successes achieved by the socialist countries under the leadership of their parties in building a new social system and the richness and diversity of the accumulated experience and specific ways, means, and forms of resolving the increasingly complex tasks facing them at the present stage of socioeconomic development were noted.

Proceeding from the need to further strengthen the political leading role of communist and workers parties in building socialism and communism and in all society, the meeting noted the particular importance of stepping up organizational and political work and improving the activity of party organs and organizations in the spirit of the creative development of Marxism-Leninism and in accordance with the demands of the present stage of building socialism in each country under the conditions of the scientific and technical revolution; enhancing their role in all economic, political, and social life; and boosting their contribution to the resolution and implementation of the tasks and goals set by the party. The decisive importance of political and organizational work, which is called upon to mobilize all forces to implement the party's general line and the programs and plans for the country's economic and social development, was stressed. The ability of each of the fraternal parties to critically analyze its own activity, constantly renew its democratic forms and its organization and leadership methods, and thereby promote an increase in the prestige and magnetic attraction of socialism in the world is of great importance.

The parties represented at the conference expounded at length their experience in improving the organizational forms, style, and methods of work, enhancing communists' responsibility for consistently implementing party decisions and observing the laws of the country, ensuring each communist's effective participation in specific work according to his abilities, training, and experience, and stepping up guidance work in supporting and monitoring the fulfillment of assigned tasks. Particuclar attention was devoted to elucidating the experience accumulated by each party in developing internal party democracy, improving the forms and methods of consulting and involving all communists in the fulfillment of tasks, and making fuller use of their creative abilities and initiative. Emphasis was placed on the great importance attached by the parties participating in the conference to the implementation of cadre policy, the ideological, political, and professional training of cadres, and the enhancement of their responsibility for the fulfillment of assigned tasks.

In light of the documents adopted by the congresses of their parties, the participants in the conference expounded at length the experience that has been accumulated, the measures that have been taken, and the topical avenues for improving social relations and the system for the management, planning, and organization of the national economy for the purpose of increasing economic efficiency and ensuring the more powerful development of each country's material and technical base. Note was made of tasks in further developing and deepening socialist democracy and ensuring appropriate democratic forms for working people's active participation in the leadership of all sectors of activity and the whole of society. At the same time, there was an extensive exchange of information regarding the ways, organizational forms, and methods applied by the communist and workers parties represented at the conference in accordance with each country's specific conditions with a view to ensuring direct participation by the working class, peasantry, other categories of working people, labor collectives, and public organizations in the elaboration and implementation of decisions, programs, and development plans and the domestic and foreign policy of the party and the state.

The conference noted the usefulness of exchanges of opinions and experience in various spheres of party work and socialist building in general for better familiarization with each people's achievements and tasks and for strengthening the relations of friendship, solidarity, collaboration, and unity of the parties and countries building the new system. The participants in the meeting reaffirmed the determination of their parties and peoples to act consistently along the avenue of strengthening mutual cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and other spheres in the interests of the all-around progress and accelerated development of each country and the common cause of socialism and peace.

The participants in the conference, highly appraising the Great October Socialist Revolution, emphasized the attention being given in their countries to the celebration of the 70th anniversary of this exceptionally important event, which marked the beginning of a new era in the history of mankind.

In the course of the discussions note was made of the desire of the parties represented at the conference to do everything to develop cooperation and solidarity with other communist and workers parties and all progressive, democratic, and anti-imperialist forces in the world in the struggle for the elimination of the threat of a devastating nuclear war, the termination of the arms race, the prohibition of the militarization of space, a transition to real measures of disarmament and primarily nuclear disarmament, and peace and social progress. The participants in the conference emphasized the great importance of the proposals of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries aimed at ensuring peace and international security.

The conference was held in a comradely working atmosphere, in a spirit of friendship and mutual understanding.

GERASIMOV FOREIGN MINISTRY NEWS CONFERENCE 14 MAY

Reagan ASAT 'Disinformation'

LD141423 Moscow TASS in English 1420 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 14 TASS -- "The President of the United States comes out in favour of implementing the plans aimed at developing anti-satellite weapon systems and seeks the lifting of the ban on an ASAT weapon which already exists in the United States," Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists today.

"Only yesterday", he pointed out, "President Reagan came forward with a statement that the Soviet Union ostensibly conducted ASAT tests while the United States sat idle, and that the USA, too, was in need of testing its ASAT systems".

"This is disinformation", Gennadiy Gerasimov emphasized. "In 1983 the Soviet Union announced a unilateral moratorium on the testing of anti-satellite systems. We have been observing the moratorium. Moreover, the Soviet Union consistently comes out in favour of banning ASAT systems".

"An ASAT weapon is not only a defensive one. This is a weapon of preparation for a sudden attack".

"This is why we are for a ban on ASAT systems. We hold that the attempts by the U.S. Administration to secure a congressional decision to resume the testing of ASAT systems are aimed at implementing the plans for the development of such space weapons and at undermining the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms."

Touching upon yesterday's speech by U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger before journalists in Oslo on his way to a session of NATO's military committee, Gennadiy Gerasimov quoted him as saying that it would be rather difficult to verify an agreement on the elimination of shorter-range missiles because the Russians could ostensibly hide them somewhere, in a taxi, for example, and in general in anything moving.

The spokesman for the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs refuted the remark, emphasizing that pronouncements of that kind would not promote progress at the talks on the conclusion of an agreement on shorter-range missiles

Nuclear Weapons in Japan

LD141438 Moscow TASS in English 1436 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 14 TASS -- The U.S. and Japanese press have repeatedly cited facts about secret accords between the two countries' governments regarding introduction of U.S. nuclear weapons in Japan, Gennadiy Gerasimov, a spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing here today.

As to the official quarters of both countries, the reaction to those reports was always one and the same: No comments in Washington and in Tokyo they referred to the three non-nuclear principles. On the whole, the point at issue was, allegedly, a misunderstanding.

Attempts are made to list new facts too, disclosed by the research group of the Japanese Communist Party, among "misunderstandings", Gerasimov went on. The names of the personnel of a special unit of the aircraft carrier "Midway", based in Japan, which is engaged in the assembling, equipment and storage of secret ammunition, were found in the Pentagon library.

The U.S. side and the Japanese authorities refer to the arrangement under which the United States should, in case it has an intention to introduce nuclear weapons in Japanese territory or its territorial waters, approach Japan with preliminary consultations. But Americans do not do it. In Japan, they say that they do not have any grounds to raise the issue of the presence of nuclear weapons on U.S. ships.

The Japanese Government follows the American principle in this case: Neither to confirm nor to refute whether Japan has or does not have nuclear weapons. The clarifications by the U.S. and Japanese sides on this point cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Therefore, there are grounds to believe that secret accords on this score really exist.

Berlin Anniversary Invitation

LD141340 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1322 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 14 May (TASS) -- We are forced to decline participation in the jubilee celebrations in West Berlin on the occasion of the 750th anniversary of the city of Berlin, a representative of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs said today at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists. He explained this decision by saying that despite assurances of the West Berlin Senate, the jubilee celebrations are acquiring a turn which is incompatible with the special status of this city. The representatives of executive committees from Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Riga were invited to the international meeting of mayors on 15-16 May.

NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP MEETS IN NORWAY

LD141119 Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Oslo May 14 TASS -- A two-day session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group opened in the Norwegian city of Stavanager today. Attending are defense ministers of 14 countries of the North Atlantic alliance, except France and Iceland which are not integrated into the NATO military structure.

On the agenda of the session is the issue of West's stance in view of the Soviet proposals for eliminating intermediate and shorter-range missiles from Europe. U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger is to set out the U.S. stand to the ministers today.

PLANS TO STATION B-52'S IN EUROPE 'PROVOCATIVE'

PM130955 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 May 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Provocative Plans"]

[Text] New York, 9 May -- The United States and its NATO allies are considering plans to station U.S. B-52 strategic bombers in Western Europe if a Soviet-U.S. treaty is concluded on eliminating nuclear missiles in Europe. [paragraph continues]

This has been reported by THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, which cites an unnamed official with information on the course taken by the debates in NATO on the stand it is to take in response to the Soviet Union's latest proposals on missiles in Europe. The bombers are to be armed with cruise missiles with nuclear warheads.

The stationing of U.S. bombers, the newspaper notes, is intended to "placate the allies in Western Europe, who can see a threat to their security in the Soviet Union's proposal to remove all nuclear missiles from Europe." In addition to the B-52 issue, NATO military specialists are also studying "the possibility of increasing the number of other nuclear-capable military aircraft in Western Europe and the question of placing under NATO control the sea-based U.S. cruise missiles stationed on ships in the North Atlantic."

NATO DISPLAYS 'TIMIDITY' TOWARD SOVIET PROPOSALS

LD122108 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1618 GMT 12 May 87

[Igor Surguchev commentary on the "International Diary" program presented by Igor Charikov]

[Text] [Charikov] A 1-day working visit to the United States by FRG Foreign Affairs Minister Genscher has come to an end. He met President Reagan and held talks with Secretary of State Shultz, Defense Secretary Weinberger and the President's national security adviser, Carlucci. The main subject of Genscher's Washington discussions was the problem of eliminating medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles in Europe. So, what distinguished the West German minister's visit and did it to clarify the West's attitudes to the Soviet proposals for liberating Europe from these types of nuclear weapons? Over to commentator Igor Surguchev.

[Surguchev] Unfortunately, using Remarque's words, it's all quiet on the western front. We could also formulate a somewhat simplified answer to the question: It is clear that nothing is clear. No statements for the press were published on the results of the visit, while the guest from the banks of the Rhine himself told journalists that his government had not yet adopted a decision toward the Soviet proposals. Genscher made it clear that Bonn's decision should correspond to the single position of the NATO countries which is still to be worked out. If we take into consideration his admission that even inside the FRG Government there exist differences over the approach to the USSR proposals, it would seem very likely that the process of coordinating positions within NATO will be a long one.

Of course, it's no use rushing serious matters. But one cannot fail to note that the Atlantic partners as a rule are significantly more efficient and united in their views when it is a question of increasing the bloc's military power or adopting new militarist plans. Now, when thanks to our country's initiatives a realistic possibility of taking an important step along the road of disarmament has appeared, the NATO camp displays indecisiveness, evasiveness, and almost outright timidity. One gets the impression that in the current situation, some West European leaders are behaving in the way prescribed by the somewhat forgotten children's counting rhyme:

Do not say yes and no,
Black with white doesn't go.

But the decisions concern an issue of enormous importance both for Europe and for the entire world. A half-hearted, vague answer to the Soviet proposals of the "Yes, but..."sort clearly does not suit the peoples striving for a lasting peace -- peace with a lesser quantity of weapons.

That kind of objective, by the way, was comparatively recently being proclaimed also by FRG Chancellor Kohl. But the Western statemen are evidently not prepared to reinforce their fine rhetoric with concrete, practical steps, which is shown by their confusion in connection with the Soviet proposals, all the more strange since at the basis of these proposal lies NATO's zero option on medium-range missiles.

INTERNATIONAL ANTIWAR 'DIALOGUE' OPENS IN MOSCOW

Zagladin Addresses Meeting

LD131533 Moscow TASS in English 1238 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- A nuclear war is a suicide to mankind. This thought underlied many speeches given by participants in the fourth international information meeting of representatives of anti-war organisations opened in Moscow today.

The meeting is attended by delegates from over 150 national anti-war movements and organisations of the broadest spectrum from Western Europe, the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and also from socialist countries.

War should be deleted from the life of peoples. It is necessary that political problems be solved by peaceful means so that confrontation gives place to cooperation, Vadim Zagladin, first deputy head of the international Department of the CPSU Central Committee, said in his opening address to the meeting. The issue of mankind's survival in the nuclear age has been raised most acutely since the time of Hiroshima. He said that each nation had the right to choose its own way of development. Let each society demonstrate on its own example the advantage of its system. This is the sole right method of reasoning in solving disputable international issues.

Someone in the West argues that a nuclear-free world is utopia for the reason that nuclear weapons have assured peaceful development for well over 40 years now. However, a report by Viktor Komplektov, deputy minister of the USSR, has forcefully shown that further efforts to stockpile nuclear arsenals magnified the risk of the outbreak of nuclear war, especially if the arms race was extended into space.

Many Americans hold that the new political initiatives launched by Mikhail Gorbachev, an outstanding statesman, should be examined most thoroughly by the West, Howard Frazier, executive director of the American anti-war organisation, "promoting enduring peace", Connecticut, told TASS. We believe that Soviet intentions are sincere and hope that the U.S. Administration will accept them, he said.

Jef Lheureux, Belgium, expressed confidence that the forum in Moscow would be a major stage in giving new momentum to the international anti-war movement.

Further Details

LD131731 Moscow TASS in English 1552 GMT 13 May 87

["On Problems of Soviet Foreign Policy" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- TASS correspondents Vladimir Yegorov and Valery Kostylev report:

"The Soviet foreign policy which, just as in every country, is the extension of the domestic policy, is called upon, above all, to ensure a consistent implementation of profoundly peaceful humanistic tasks", said Vadim Zagladin, first deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee. He addressed the fourth information meeting -- dialogue of representatives of anti-war organizations from 40 countries that opened today in Moscow.

"Peacefulness has been and continues to be the basis of the Soviet Union's foreign policy since the emergence of our state", Vadim Zagladin says. "There are no grounds to think that there will be changes in this area: The very nature of the Soviet system which precludes gain on the arms race and plundering of other peoples does not tolerate the possibility of such a turn".

The Soviet leadership has drawn most serious conclusions from the establishment of the fact that humanity is threatened with nuclear suicide, he said. This reevaluation resulted in two major programmes: of a nuclear free world and of an all-embracing system of international security. For that purpose, it has been necessary to revise many established views, to which we also adhered. Thus, quite recently we proceeded from the view that a nuclear war can be won. This was recorded also in Soviet documents and in some international documents which we have been working out jointly with our allies. We have now discarded that viewpoint. We heeded the conclusions of scientists that nuclwar war will spare no one.

Hence our unilateral steps, such as refraining from being the first to use nuclear weapons, refraining from putting anti-satellite arms in space, a moratorium on nuclear explosions that continued for 18 months, Vadim Zagladin said. New proposals on intermediate range missiles in Europe which envisage asymmetrical, far larger reduction in such types of arms by our side, than by the West, stem from our conclusion that nuclear war should not be fought.

The situation shapes in such a way that the further nuclear arms stockpile, the development of electronics due to which a considerable share of the responsibility for decision-making is now shifted from humans to "the intellect of the machines" carries humanity to the threshold beyond which nuclear deterrence ceases to be a guarantee of restraint and entails heightened risks.

This risk will assume horrible proportions if the nuclear arms are spread to space. For to create space arms systems means to relegate a still greater share of responsibility to machinery, to enhance still more the danger of an unpremeditated, unprovoked and unsanctioned, but no less disastrous war.

Noting that the so-called conventional armaments have become close to nuclear arms for their destructive power, Vadim Zagladin said that any war, both nuclear and conventional, should be precluded from the life of society. It is necessary to pass on to a new world order where all conflict situations would be resolved in a political way, through a dialogue, to the order where the right of every people for any socio-political choice would be respected, where priority would be given to mutually-advantageous cooperation of states, and not to their confrontation.

WHITE HOUSE 'NERVOUSNESS' OVER IRAN AFFAIR NOTED

LD141142 Moscow TASS in English 1135 GMT 14 May 87

["Irangate: Nervousness in White House" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Washington May 14 TASS -- The U.S. press is broadly commenting on the situation in the administration in connection with the new facts shedding light on the role of the White House in the Iran-contras affair.

When asked what he thought about the hearings, the President said that they proceeded excellently, the NBC television company reported. Yet behind President's smile is deep and growing concern about the battle for public opinion he is losing. Serious damage has already been done to the President by the testimony that his complicity is by far deeper than he admits.

There is ever new evidence that the U.S. Administration drew other countries into the operation for giving assistance to the Somozist gangs. As NBC said, on Wednesday after the reports on Congress hearings, Reagan admitted that he and King Fahd (during the Saudi monarch's visit to the USA in February 1985 -- TASS note) discussed the problem of the financial contribution to the struggle waged by the rebels. This is the latest in the series of exposures of the President's involvement in secretly financing the contras.

Answering on Wednesday questions of reporters, Reagan categorically denied that he was the first to raise the question of support for the contras at the meeting with King Fahd in February 1985 and insisted that he had not requested to expand that aid. Yet, according to the ABC television company after that meeting the Saudis doubled aid to the Nicaraguan contras -- from one to two million dollars a month. Senator William Cohen said in that connection that everybody understands that if two leaders are brought together to hold a discussion practically leading to a contribution to the contra funds this is begging for money.

Robert McFarlane, former presidential national security assistant, who has been giving testimony already for the third successive day, told the Irangate hearing in Congress that Reagan had been informed about all efforts aimed at giving secret aid to the contras. McFarlane was asked whether he had reported to the President what his national security assistant and the National Security Council were doing to meet Reagan's requests as regards the contras. McFarlane admitted that he had done so tens of times, and explained that he had reported on the changing situation, the set backs of the contras and practically any change that happened.

Saudi Arabian Role Detailed

LD142108 Moscow TASS in English 1914 GMT 14 May 87

["Unsavoury Role" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 14 TASS -- TASS commentator Grigoriy Vasiliyev writes:

President of the United States Ronald Reagan acknowledged that he had been aware of the aid that King of Saudi Arabia Fahd was rendering to Nicaraguan contras. The UPI News agency reports the President at the same time denied that he had any information that aid was rendered at the request of the USA.

THE WASHINGTON POST reported, however, about two secret meetings that former assistant to the President for national security affairs Robert McFarlane had with Saudi official represenatives during which the question of the aid for contras was posed. Thus, if the influential U.S. newspaper is to be believed, the selfsame McFarlane who made a sensational trip to Tehran and played the key role in the "Irangate" scandal organized handouts of millions of dollars to counterrevolutionary gangs of Nicaragua from Riyadh. It will not be amiss to recall that an active part in that disgraceful venture was played by Saudi arms merchant 'Adnan Khashuqji who had proposed a plan for bribing Iranian officials to further American interests.

Considerable funds from secret deliveries of U.S. arms to Iran implemented with Israel's direct participation were transferred to Somoza men. The very fact of these deliveries caused indignation in the Arab east and was assessed as the evidence of the duplicity of Washington which hypocritically talks about ending the Iran-Iraq conflict, while pouring oil into the flames of the bloody war.

There is information that Saudi Arabia provided nearly 30 million dollars for gangs of Somoza men. And it is apparent that no matter what versions about the United States' participation in those financial machinations are advanced by Washington officials and the mass media, and no matter how they in Saudi Arabia try to dissociate from these machinations, Riyadh teamed up with the forces that caused the Irangate. Saudi Arabia actually yielded to the United States which tries to widen the number of countries providing aid for the Nicaraguan contras.

It is also apparent that the unsavoury role played by Riyadh damages the common struggle of the Arabs against the intrigues of imperialism and Zionism, for a fair and durable peace in the Middle East, for stability in the area as a whole.

REAGAN THREAT TO VETO DEFENSE BUDGET CITED

OW140407 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1045 GMT 13 May 87

[From "The World Today" program, presented by Valeriy Korzin]

[Text] It should be said that the idea of reducing arms is gaining greater support, not only among ordinary Americans, but in the U.S. Congress as well.

At this moment, the U.S. House of Representatives is continuing to discuss its own variation of the draft law on military expenditure for the next financial year. Congressmen have already, in fact, voted to freeze expenditure on the SDI program to the level of the current year. The White House was asking for $5.7 billion, while the Congress merely allowed $3.1 billion. That is $2.6 billion less than requested.

Tomorrow, debates will begin in the Senate which, as it is already known, is also not prepared to pass the sum of nearly $6 billion.

President Reagan had already announced that he would veto the final draft budget if this did not satisfy all the administration's demands.

It should be said that President Reagan's demands to Congress in recent times have become something of a norm in their relations. A similar ultimatum was heard quite recently. President Reagan came out with a demand to lift the ban on antisatellite arms' testing in space.

It appears it is not a coincidence that many Western newspapers are writing that one of the main reasons for the sharp fall in the popularity of the current U.S. Administration -- and above all its head, Ronald Reagan -- lies in its reluctance to realistically assess the situation and listen to the opinions of its citizens.

DOBRYNIN RECEIVES U.S. BUSINESSMEN 11 MAY

PM131410 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Business Meetings"]

[Text] On 11 May A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received D. Andreas, cochairman of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council, and J. Giffen, president of the council, at their request.

The prominent representatives of U.S. business circles noted that the restructuring process occurring in the USSR, which also affects the sphere of foreign economic relations, is arousing lively interest in the United States and creating more favorable opportunities for the activity of those seeking the mutually advantageous development of Soviet-U.S. trade and economic ties.

The American interlocutors stressed that the sincere adherence of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the cause of strengthening peace and progressing toward eliminating the nuclear threat from mankind's life is enjoying increasing respect among broad circles of the U.S. public.

During the conversation, which took place in a spirit of good will and constructiveness, specific possibilities were examined for the expansion of Soviet-U.S. cooperation in trade and economics, which is designed to promote the normalization of relations between the USSR and the United States in general.

Talks Conclude

LD132223 Moscow TASS in English 2117 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- Dwayne Andreas, cochairman of the US-USSR Trade and Economic Council, and James Giffen, the council's president, discussed with Soviet officials the state and prospects of the Soviet-American trade and economic cooperation during their visit to Moscow which ended today.

The American businessmen had been received by Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and by Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, chairman of the USSR state Agri-Industrial Committee (Gosagroporm) and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Andreas and Giffen met senior officials of the USSR Council of Ministers State Foreign Economic Commission, the USSR Foreign Trade Ministry and the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The sides fixed the date for the annual meeting of the US-USSR Trade and Economic Council -- the council's supreme directing body. It will be held in Moscow in December 1987.

YAO YILIN, DELEGATION DEPART AFTER TALKS

LD142348 Moscow TASS in English 2323 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 14 TASS -- A Chinese delegation led by Yao Yilin, member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and vice president of the State Council of the PRC, left Moscow today for home at the close of the second session of the Soviet-Chinese commission on economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Nikolay Talyzin, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the Soviet part of the Soviet-Chinese commission, other members of the Soviet delegation as well as China's ambassador to the USSR, Li Zewang.

IZVESTIYA CARRIES GOVERNMENT CONDOLENCES TO PRC

PM141125 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 May 87 Morning Edition p 2

[USSR Council of Ministers Condolences to PRC Premier on Forest Fire]

[Text] To Comrade Zhao Ziyang, Premier of the PRC State Council.

We express our deep condolences to the Government and the people of the PRC on the natural disaster suffered -- the major forest fire in Heilongjiang Provinces, which caused loss of life.

We ask you to convey our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of those that died.

The USSR Council of Ministers.

ARREST OF TAIWANESE 'SPIES' IN PRC NOTED

PM141209 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report "From the IZVESTIYA Teletype Room": "Spies Detained"]

[Text] Beijing, 7 May -- Three people accused of espionage have been arrested by state security organs in Guangdong Province (southern China). According to XINHUA, they were sent into PRC territory by the Taiwanese special services and were engaged in collecting secret information on civilian and military installations in the PRC and recruiting new members for their espionage group.

CORRECTION TO LI ZEWANG'S IMPRESSIONS ON KHABOROVSK VISIT

The following correction pertains to the item under the subheading "Speaks on Impressions," published in the 12 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page B 3.

[Paragraph eight, line one reads: [As for border trade] I think there is...(supplying editorial notation)

Paragraph eight, line six reads: There is great potential for development of (?trade) on both sides. The amount of trade...(supplying indistinct sentence)

DOLGIKH DELEGATION CONTINUES DPRK VISIT

Dolgikh Addresses Reception

PM141225 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "In Delegation's Honor"]

[Text] A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by V.I. Dolgikh, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, is in Pyongyang on an official friendly visit.

The DPRK Central People's Committee held a reception 11 May in the Soviet delegation's honor.

Welcoming the Soviet guests, Chong Chun-ki expressed certainty the delegation's visit will serve to consolidate cooperation between the supreme organs of power of the two countries and the intensification of the traditional Soviet-Korean friendship. The Korean people, he noted, fully support the USSR's peace proposals aimed at preventing the militarization of space, totally eliminating nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of this century, and turning the Asian and Pacific region into a nuclear-free zone of peace and cooperation. These initiatives accord with the DPRK's efforts and its struggle for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and the creation of a nuclear-free peace zone on the Korean peninsula.

On behalf of the delegation, V.I. Dolgikh, expressed the profound feeling of international friendship and fraternity which the Soviet people have for the heroic Korean people and described the revolutionary restructuring of all aspects of life now under way in the USSR at the CPSU's initiative. He noted this course has become the vital concern of the entire Soviet people and has generated an unprecedented upsurge in their labor and political activeness.

The CPSU and the Soviet Government, Dolgikh said, are firmly convinced that the current priority in world politics should be saving human civilization from a nuclear catastrophe.

The Soviet Union is making persistent efforts to strengthen peace and security in Asia. Processes are taking place here which affect the USSR's position and the interests of its friends and allies. Taking this into consideration we have suggested implementing a comprehensive approach toward problems of Asian security, whose essence is to pool the efforts of all Asian states irrespective of the differences in their social systems for the sake of safeguarding peace and stability and setting up their broad cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual advantage.

The Soviet Union welcomes the DPRK's initiatives to normalize the situation on the Korean peninsula, including the proposal to turn it into a nuclear-free zone, which fully accords with the spirit of the times, V.I. Dolgikh stressed.

The reception was attended by Pak Song-chol, member of the Workers Party of Korea Political Bureau and vice president of the DPRK, and by other officials.

Further on Kim Il-song Meeting

LD141805 Moscow TASS in English 1645 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Pyongyang May 14 TASS -- General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, president of the DPRK Kim Il-song met today with a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet on an official friendly visit here. The delegation is led by alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet Vladimir Dolgikh.

The head of the Soviet delegation handed over a personal message of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev to the leader of the DPRK and presented him with the Order of Lenin. The order was awarded to him for outstanding merits in the development of fraternal friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the USSR and the DPRK, for a great contribution to strengthening the cause of peace and socialism.

Kim Il-song expressed cordial gratitude for a high award and voiced the confidence that friendship between the peoples of the USSR and the DPRK will remain unbreakable.

The conversation ensued during which the sides exchanged opinions on questions of bilateral relations and international problems.

The meeting passed in an atmosphre of friendship and cordiality.

On the same day Vladimir Dolgikh held a reception in connection with the conclusion of the delegation's visit to the DPRK. Speaking at the reception, he noted that a dynamic development of Soviet-Korean relations suits the vital interests of the two peoples and promotes the strengthening of the positions and prestige of world socialism, a greater interaction of fraternal socialist states.

The vigorous support expressed in the DPRK for Mikhail Gorbachev's program of complete elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons, for other Soviet initiatives aimed at a radical improvement of the political climate in the world is highly appreciated in the Soviet Union, he said.

We solidarize with the Korean people in its just struggle for a peaceful democratic unification of the motherland, the head of the Soviet delegation said.

IZVESTIYA CARRIES USSR-DPRK FISHING AGREEMENT

PM141219 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] A long-term agreement between the USSR and DPRK Governments on cooperation in the fish industry has been signed in Pyongyang by N.I. Kotlyar, USSR minister of the fish industry, who is here at present, and Choe Pok-yon, chairman of the DPRK Fisheries Committee. [paragraph continues]

The sides will devote particular attention, the document notes, to research and the optimum use of natural resources in joint fishing regions, the development of methods to artificially cultivate marine vegetation, and the improvement of cooperation and other ties in the fish industry.

N.I. Kotlyar was received by Yi Kun-mo, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Political Bureau and premier of the DPRK Administrative Council. During the conversation both sides expressed the desire to intensify and enrich bilateral cooperation.

'NEW' S. KOREAN PARTY HOLDS CONSTITUENT CONFERENCE

PM121333 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 2 May 87 p 3

[TASS report: "Constituent Conference"]

[Text] The constituent conference of the major new South Korean opposition grouping, the United Democratic Party, has been held in Seoul. A program was adopted containing a call for the introduction of a system of direct national presidential elections at the elimination of the dictatorship. The United Democratic Party demanded human rights guarantees and the release of political prisoners and an end to the military's dominance of political life. Leading opposition figure Kim Yong-sam was elected chairman of the new party.

GORBACHEV MEETS WITH INDIAN CULTURAL FIGURE

LD141922 Moscow TASS in English 1823 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 14 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev and Raisa Gorbachev today had a friendly meeting with well-known artist and prominent public figure Svyatoslav Rerikh, who is an honorary member of the Soviet Academy of Fine Arts, and his wife Devika Rani.

Svyatoslav Rerikh, who lives and works in Bangalore, India, is starying in the Soviet Union as the academy's guest.

During the meeting a wide-ranging and spirited conversation was held on the role and place of cultural workers in the present-day work and their influence on promoting ideas of humanism, friendship, and cooperation among nations.

Svyatoslav Rerikh said that Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to India and his talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi have made a deep impression on broad political and public circles [words indistinct], including Indian intellectuals, and helped strengthen friendship and mutual understanding between the Indian and Soviet people.

[Moscow World Service in English at 1800 GMT on 18 May carries a report on Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev's meeting with Syatoslav Rerikh, which adds the followiing: Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking about the sources of Soviet-Indian relations, said the first sprouts of the friendship between the two countries were connected with the Rereikh family. He said Soviet people had grateful memories of the Russian artist Nikolay Rerikh, whose life and work were a contribution to closer spiritual ties between the USSR and India.]

Further Report

LD142126 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Raisa Maksimovna Gorbachev had a friendly meeting today with Svyatoslav Nikolayevich Rerikh, a well-known artist and prominent public figure and an honorary member of USSR Academy of Arts, and his wife, Devika Rani. Svyatoslav Nikolayevich Rerikh, who lives and works in India, is in the Soviet Union as a guest of the USSR Academy of Arts. A wide-ranging and interesting talk took place on the role and place of cultural figures in the modern world and on their influence on forming the ideals of humanism, friendship, and cooperation between peoples.

Warmly welcoming Svyatoslav Nikolayevich Rerikh, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said: This meeting was a most long-standing desire of ours. If we are to return to the sources of Soviet-Indian relations, then the first shoots of friendship between the two countries are linked with the Rerikh family. The memory of Nikolay Konstantinovich Rerikh, whose artistic activity and public education work served to bring the spiritual cultures of the Soviet Union and India together and to consolidate humanistic principles in world culture, is preserved with deep gratitude in the Soviet Union. Svyatoslav Nikolayevich Rerikh, who has continued these achievements and traditions for many decades, has made an irreplaceable contribution to the development of Soviet-Indian cultural cooperation in the interests of the mutual spiritual enrichment of the peoples of the two countries.

Svyatoslav Nikolayevich Rerikh told of how Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's visit to India and his talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had left deep traces in the consciousness of broad political and public circles of India and of the Indian intelligentsia and had adided the strengthening of friendship and mutual understanding between the Indian and Soviet peoples. Present at the meeting were: Yakovlev, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Zakharov, USSR minister of culture; Salakhov, first secretary of the board of the USSR Union of Artists; Zalygin, secretary of the board of the USSR Union of Writers; and other comrades.

STATEMENT ON PERSIAN GULF SHIPPING RECALLED

LD142112 Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 14 May 87

["For Safety of Navigation in Persian Gulf" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 14 TASS -- TASS commentator Vyacheslav Anchikov writes:

A report of the Iranian news agency IRNA says commander of Iran's Navy Admiral Hoseyn Maleksadegan said that the Iranian naval forces have created a quarantine belt, deploying forces in [word indistinct] strategic areas of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman and intend to apprehend ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz "no matter what flag they fly or to what country they belong."

It will be appropriate to recall in this connection the Soviet Government's statement of January 8 1987 which pointed out that the safety of international lanes in the (?Persian Gulf) is threatened as a result of the Iran-Iraq coflict which is in its seventh year and that merchant ships and tankers, including those not belonging to states involved in the conflict, are attacked in the Persian Gulf.

The Soviet (?Union) attaches much important to questions of security and freedom of shipping in the Persian Gulf, viewing them in close relationship with the need for settling the Iran-Iraq armed conflict and strengthening confidence among countries of the area. The USSR proceeds from the view that the Persian Gulf is part of the Indian Ocean and that the proposals for turning the Indian Ocean into a peace zone, specifically for holding an international conference on this question not later than in 1988 have the Soviet Union's vigorous support. Therefore it is necessary to refrain from actions threatening security and freedom of shipping in the Persian Gulf area.

IRAN'S 'ANTI-SOVIET' POSITION CASTIGATED

NC131330 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 13 May 87

[Vera Lebedeva commentary]

[Text] While perusing the Iranian presss and listening to Tehran radio recently, I realized that a new wave of anti-Sovietism has started in your country. I would like to state that on my visits to Iran during the shah's regime, I was often aware of an atmosphere of anti-Sovietism but, at the same time, I saw that Iran's workers did not participate in the anti-Soviet propaganda.

The ordinary Iranian ignored the anti-Soviet stories, and some even strongly criticized them. I think the situation is very much the same today.

Anti-Sovietism cannot benefit Iranian workers in any way. The Iranian workers have seen nothing but good deeds from the Soviet Union. The Esfahan steel mill, the Arak machine-tool plant, the trans-Iranian gas pipeline -- which made the industrial exploitation of natural gas possible -- the Aras river hydroelectric installations, and grain elevators were all built in Iran with Soiviet participation. I saw how my compatriots and the Iranians lived and worked like friends in the housing units of these projects. There was no enmity among them. They helped each other and spent their leisure hours together. Thousands of Iranians found jobs and stable wages in the projects implemented in Iran with Soviet assistance. Therefore, why should these people regard the Soviet Union with hostility? I think that today too they continue to consider us as their good neighbors.

The current anti-Soviet propagandists condemn the Soviet Union for its wrong stand on the Iran-Iraq war. The question is: Why is the Soviet stand wrong? According to the anti-Soviet propagandists, the Soviet Union's efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war are wrong. Yes, the Soviet Union is striving to end the war and it does not hide its efforts. The Soviet Union believes that the protraction of the war will be an irreparable mistake. The Soviet Union deeply regrets the fact that young men are being killed in the deserts and in the Hoveyzeh marshes. Parents did not bring up their children for them to suffer such a fate. We know that much lipservice is paid in Iran to the continuation of the war for decades to come and to "War, war until victory." However, the Soviet Union cannot share this point of view. Our country opposes any kind of bloodshed and supports the establishment of peace, good-neighborly relations, and cooperation among nations. Our country supports the ending of regional conflicts like the Iran-Iraq war, which broke out 6 and 1/2 years ago.

Let us sit down and consider who benefits from this war. Only the imperialists and Zionists benefit from it. They are wrming their hands over the fire of conflicts among Middle Eastern nations. They are fanning the flames of border, national, and religious conflicts in this region, in a bid to create a rift among nations and to distract them from their anti-imperialist struggles. The Iran-Iraq war is a suitable pretext for the enemies of regional nations to intervene, militarily, that is, in regional affairs. For Iran and Iraq, this war only means that people are being killed and cities, provinces, and industrial installations are being destroyed. My heart fills with sadness when I think that some of my friends may have been killed in the bombings, missile raids, and shelling of cities and villages, and that others have lost their children on the fronts.

I saw the Khark Island oil terminal, which was a very fine installation of its kind. This terminal has now been destroyed. The Abdan and Aghajari oil wells, as well as the Abadan refinery, have been destroyed. On the other side of the front -- in Iraq -- much is also in ruins.

In view of all this, how can the Soviet Union, which is striving for universal peace, not oppose the destructive Iran-Iraq war?

The fabrications and stories concocted in Iran on an imaginary collusion between the two superpowers have been used as a weapon in Iran for a long time now.

These stories appeared during the shah's regime in the pages of the Iranian press and in speeches by Iranian politicians who were influenced by Western propaganda. At that time, most Iranians knew that there was not an iota of truth in these fabrications and they regarded them with contempt. Today -- the era after the anti-shah revolution -- when the superpowers' stands on Iran have been completely clarified, this is even more the case.

The United States adopted a hostile position toward the Iranian revolution, supported the shah until the last moment, and engineered plots against the Islamic Republic. In contrast, the Soviet Union explicitly announced that it supported the people of Iran in their uprising and that any foreign intervention in Iran's affairs would be illegal. The United States tried to stifle Iran through economic sanctions. But the Soviet Union opened its doors to your country for the transit of goods. This all shows that any attempt to equate our Socialist country and the imperialist United States of America have absolutely no foundation in fact. It also shows that allegations of collusion between the two superpowers are nothing but tattered tales concocted by anti-Soviet elements -- tales that events proved to be false a long time ago.

Dear friends, I sincerely regret the fact that anti-Sovietism is flourishing in Iran. The law of nature dictates that our two nations should have peaceful and good-neighborly relations, since the length of the two countries' borders -- both on land and sea -- stretch for 2,500 km. Of course this creates additional opportunities for the establishment of many types of relations and contacts; and it is a source of great regret that the anti-Soviet fabrications being disseminated by specific circles in Iran have obstructed this.

AID DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS IN AFGHANISTAN NOTED

LD141312 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Internationalist aid from the Soviet Union for Afghanistan is the topic of a report by our Kabul correspondent Boris Savodyan:

This aid includes food and prime necessities. It is delivered and distributed by the Afghan Army and executive committees of people's representatives. Much assistance in distributing the goods is given by detachments of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. They participate in transporting these goods, and in ensuring the safety of their delivery to villages. Soviet servicemen give treatment and distribute medicines, build irrigation installations, dig wells, and help at children's homes. At the DRA Council of Ministers I was told that last year aid in the form of food and necessities totalling about 1 billion afghanis was given by the Soviet Union to those in need in Afghanistan. This year, the aid will increase several times over.

Colonel (Khalil), a spokesman for the Afghan Army, told me that an end to war and to combat operations will create broad opportunities for giving assistance to the population in remote areas, where it is acutely needed. But the chiefs of bands, taking instructions from their U.S. patrons, strive to halt delivery of the free Soviet aid to the Afghan people. There are instances where the chiefs of bands hunt down and kill those who deliver these goods or those who receive them.

NAJIBULLAH ON PROGRESS OF RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

PM131553 Moscow AZIYA I AFRIKA SEGODNYA in Russian No 4, Apr 87 (Signed to Press 24 May 87) pp 12-15

[Interview with PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Najib by correspondent in Kabul I. Burtsev: "The Revolution Continues"; date of interview not given]

[Text] [Burtsev] Comrade Najib, the 9th year of the building of a new society on Afghan soil has been rich in the many important events in the life of the party and people of your country. In your opinion which of these is the most noteworthy?

[Najib] I would call the restructuring which we have begun to carry out in our party and public life the most important characteristic feature of this year. At the 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenum we attentively discussed questions associated with the realization of the tasks of the national democratic revolution. While on the whole confirming the continuity of PDPA policy, at this plenum we openly admitted our own shortcomings for the first time -- such as the gulf between word and deed, slack discipline, underestimation of the real state of affairs in our approach to the specific phenomena of life, and the poor level of criticism and self-criticism. We condemned the situation within the party whereby many words were employed to praise our achievements in both Dari and Pashto but, when the time came to speak about failures, many literally lost the ability to speak. The plenum focused attention on the necessity of moving from words to deeds, strengthening revolutionary discipline, and rigorously implementing the decisions made.

Certain changes took place in the composition of the leading cadres both during and after the 19th plenum. Thus, the PDPA Central Committee more than doubled in strength -- basically by means of the provincial aktivs, which broadened the democratic foundations of the party's leadership. The leading personnel of a number of ministries were renewed.

These measures were not slow to have an effect on the country's economy. You know that the Afghan year 1365 (it began 21 March 1986) -- is the first year of the first 5-year plan since the revolution. In accordance with the Basic Guidelines for the DRA's Economic and Social Development in 1365-1369, by the end of the 5-year plan the volume of national revenue is to increase by 25 percent, the production of industrial output by 38 percent, and the production of gross agricultural output by 14-16 percent.

We now know that the plan for the first year of the 5-year plan has been successfully fulfilled in practically all sectors of industry and in transportation and trade. Despite the difficulties generated by the undeclared war against the DRA, according to a preliminary assessment GNP will exceed the prerevolutionary level and will approach 200 billion afghanis. We are still experiencing difficulties in agriculture. Naturally, one of the main causes of this is the complex military and political situation in the country. By no means everywhere yet can the peasants plow, sow, harvest their crops, and sell the fruits of their labor in peace.

And of course, the process of national reconciliation now under way is the main event of the 9th year of the revolution and a result of the restructuring.

[Burtsev] The policy of national reconciliation proclaimed and being implemented by the PDPA is a policy of compromise with the opposition forces. What brought about this compromise?

[Najib] The April Revolution in our country was a natural phenomenon caused by objective necessity. Previous regimes were not in a position to resolve the economic, political, and social problems facing the country. Nor did the Daoud regime do anything to eliminate the political and economic crisis. In this situation it was precisely our party which was the only one capable of assuming full responsibility for the country's future. The 1978 revolution was carried out by the people and for the people. But errors and differences within the party during the first 18 months following the revolution and an overestimation by the PDPA leadership of the capacity of broad sectors of society to accept completely the new way of life led to the alienation of the revolutionary vanguard from the people's masses. Subsequently, when the healthy nucleus in the party gained the upper hand and began to rectify the situation, the mistaken actions of its former leaders were exploited by extremist counterrevolutionary circles with the support of their foreign and overseas patrons. A real but undeclared war was unleashed against the DRA.

You know that the imperialist states led by the United States and also the regional reaction supplied and are supplying the counterrevolutionaries with money and the latest weapons. In such a situation the process of consolidating the people's power and carrying out progressive transformations in Afghanistan has been dragged out over many years.

[Burtsev] How do you assess the damage inflicted by the war?

[Najib] There are several ways of measuring this damage. Primarily I mean the direct economic damage, that is, the cost of what has been blown up, burned, and destroyed. Many hundreds of schools have been destroyed, the activities of economic establishments have been paralyzed, and agricultural production has fallen sharply. Such damage exceeds 50 billion afghanis. But specialists are in a position to calculate, let us say, the indirect economic damage also, that is, the cost of what we could have built, done, and acquired if there was no war. This exceeds the direct damage several times over. Only the USSR's economic aid and our collaboration with that country have enabled us to achieve the prerevolutionary level of industrial production and accomplish many social tasks such as the development of public health care, housing construction, and ensuring a reasonable standard of living for the population.

Finally there is the main, human loss -- thousands of dead, wounded, and war-maimed Afghans, thousands of shattered families, thousands of our compatriots obliged to drag out a miserable existence in a foreign country. The damage caused by this war is tremendous and our greatest wish is to escape from it.

We are not the perpetrators of this continuing bloodshed. Furthermore we have been trying for a long time to find a way to a political solution of the question, bearing in mind both domestic and foreign policy. You know that our Geneva talks with the Pakistani regime through a representative of the UN general secretary have already lasted nearly 4 years. But our moves toward the opposition both within the country and outside its borders have until recently met with few results. In this situation we have chosen the path of national reconciliation as the chief method of a political solution of the question around Afghanistan.

[Burtsev] Did the world situation influence this choice in any way?

[Najib] Indisputably the contemporary global situation, whereby any local conflict is fraught with the danger of sparking a world thermonuclear conflagration, also had an influence on our choice. [paragraph continues]

The USSR's efforts to implement its proposals for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the 20th century, as expounded in M.S. Gorbachev's statement of 15 January last year, are understandable in this context. We support the USSR's peace-loving foreign policy initiatives. The new political thinking, the philosophy of peace and compromise -- this is the main artery for mankind's development. The majority of the countries of the world support it. The times compel us to seek and find alternative forms of revolutionary struggle, to turn to nonviolent methods. Such methods also conform to the principles of the well known Delhi declaration signed by M.S. Gorbachev and R. Gandhi.

Thus we arrived at a policy of reconciliation from considerations of humanity and common sense, and not from weakness. In making this decision we expected our adversaries to also show good sense and not spurn the hand offered them.

[Burtsev] What preceded the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation?

[Najib] As I have already said, the process of reconciliation has become a very important phenomenon with which the 9th year of the revolution is coming to a close. We have worked on this for a long time. Calls for reconciliation have also been previously heard from the PDPA and the Revolutionary Council and DRA Government.

Over the last year our positions have been consolidated. After the 16th plenum of the party's Central Committee the social base of the revolutionary power became wider. The 5-year plan for the country's economic and social development was adopted and began to be implemented. We became stronger, and strength generates wisdom. We see the longer term. Hence, therefore, we do not want vain sacrifices. We understand very well that this war is by no means a civil war but has been imposed on our people from outside. And we have done and are doing everything so that our compatriots can be united against this futile bloodshed.

The withdrawal from our country's territory during the latter half of last October of six regiments of the limited contingent of Soviet troops was one of the most important specific steps in this direction By this move, carried out in coordination with the Soviet leadership, we counted on generating a positive reaction on the part of neighboring countries, and also of those Western powers which are supporting and directing the counterrevolution. Such a step could also have a favorable impact on the outcome of the Geneva talks between representatives of the DRA and Pakistan. Unfortunately there has not as yet been an adequate reaction to our initiative.

The 20th PDPA Central Committee Plenum held 20 November last year was another important step in the search for ways of reconciliation. There we attentively analyzed the results of the implementation of the decisions of the 16th plenum aimed at widening the social basis of the revolution, outlind new measures to widen the representation of all strata of the population in local organs of power, and came to the conclusion that we could come forward with a set of new reconciliation initiatives.

Finally, at the 30-31 December extraordinary plenum of the party's Central Committee we discussed and submitted the well defined concept of and comprhensive program for national reconciliation. We gave everyone present the opportunity to express an opinion on this important question before coming to definite decisions.

After the plenum the republic's Revolutionary Council met 3 January this year. It approved the reconciliation program and proclaimed it in its own declaration. A session of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission on National Reconciliation in Afghanistan appointed by the Revolutionary Council took place the same day; 297 representatives of various DRA social forces participated in it.

The cited measures also defined our program for national reconciliation in the country.

[Burtsev] How do you assess the position of the Soviet leadership in relations to this program?

[Najib] My conversations with M.S. Gorbachev during our delegation's visit to Moscow in December 1986 revealed a coincidence of views on all positions. We set out our viewpoint and our policy of national reconciliation and we met with complete understanding and support.

[Burtsev] What is the essence of your initiatives on national reconciliation?

[Najib] It is above all necessary to say that we are ready for reconciliation with everyone who stands on a patriotic platform and who is for a free, democratic, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan. With whom will we not accept reconciliation? Naturally, with those who continue the fratricidal war and the banditry.

As far as specific steps are concerned, they are expounded in the Revolutionary Council's declaration. That is, a cease-fire on the government side from 15 January; the return of the refugees and their provision with all essentials, including housing and work; the creation of coalition organs of power, from the villages up to the republic's supreme organs; the withdrawal of the contingent of Soviet troops on condition of guaranteed nonintervention in our country's affairs from external sources and the nonrenewal of aggression; the participation of private capital in the country's economy; the drafting and adoption of a DRA Constitution; an amnesty for some categories of detainees; and so on.

[Burtsev] How did the reconciliation process begin and how do you rate its progress?

[Najib] The implementation of the policy of national reconciliation began 15 January with the government cease-fire. This cease-fire will last 6 months. If the principal opposition forces join in by 15 July then it will develop into a nationwide peace.

At the same time extraordinary reconciliation commissions were set up in the provinces, districts, cities, and villages. Representatives from our side and the opposition sat on them. The commissions were entrusted with wide powers to resolve all questions arising, right up to land distribution, the release of detainees, and organizing local defense detachments. The task of these commissions includes talks with various armed groupings, holding peace councils (jirgas), and setting up coalition organs of local administration. Hundreds of such commissions were set up at all levels in the first few days, and rich experience of their work has already been accumulated.

The Revolutionary Council declared an amnesty for those detainees who pledged not to wage armed struggle against the DRA. In all around 5,000 people were released from prison. [paragraph continues]

We have established under the Council of Ministers an administration for refugee affairs, headed by Minister Hasan Sharq. It deals with refugee reception and accommodation and provides them with essentials.

The reconciliation policy provides for economic measures. In industry we are creating conditions for the functioning of private and mixed enterprises. Work is resuming at 40 such enterprises which have been closed since the revolution, and nearly 100 new ones are being set up. We are finishing the drafting of legislative acts in the sphere of land ownership and land tenure. Their purpose is to significantly increase the volume of private land ownership, but on condition that the owner can organize the cultivation of the land and pay the state a progressive tax depending on the size of the holding. It is permitted to hire a work force. In 1986 we drew up a draft DRA Constitution; however, we halted its adoption in connection with the beginning of the reconciliation process, in order to give our partners the opportunity of participating in the discussion of the country's fundamental law and to take their proposals into consideration in the final version. It is envisaged enshrining in the Constitution, in its second point, that Islam is the state religion of the DRA.

And of course, the reconciliation policy envisages the gradual return home of all Soviet forces, commensurately with the cessation of external intervention in Afghanistan's affairs and guarantees of its nonrenewal.

[Burtsev] What is the reaction to your initiative in your country and abroad?

[Najib] I can say that the reconciliation policy has met with an ardent response in Afghan hearts. The people have met our initiatives with great enthusiasm. They have also generated hope among the refugee masses.

But the reconciliation policy has not been to the taste of the U.S. Administration. It reacted to our initiative by increasing pressure on the Pakistan regime with the aim of preventing the positive development of relations between our two countries. Washington has also supported extremist groupings of the DRA's enemies -- the leaders of the so-called "seven," based in Peshawar. As has become known, recently the White House considered the question of the airborne delivery of new consignments of modern weapons, including 100 Stinger rockets, deep inside Afghan territory.

[Burtsev] It is well known that spokesman for the extremist circles of the Afghan counterrevolution gathered in Peshawar rejected outright the DRA proposal for a cease-fire, using as a pretext the presence of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

[Najib] I think our initiative took them unawares and they simply did not know how to react to it. I want to note that Gulbuddin, one of the extremist leaders, whom I know through university, settled in Pakistan even before the revolution, and he was soon followed by Rabbani and Ahmed Shah Masoud. They began to fight against their own people long before the Soviet troops' appearance here at the request of the DRA Government.

We have already said many times that the limited contingent of Soviet troops came to our country precisely for the purpose of defending the Afghan people from external aggression. [paragraph continues]

And we declared and are still declaring that we will create the conditions for the Soviet troops' return home. As soon as we achieve peace the Soviet soldier-internationalists will return home. We are already strong enough. Initially the strength of the sarandoy (people's militia) totaled only approximately 8,000 men, the army -- around 50,000, and the security organs -- 7,000. Now their numbers have increased considerably.

Nevertheless we are ready to share power with those who will cooperate with us. We are prepared to do this because we do not wish to continue the fratricidal war. Because of it life for our people is becoming worse and more and more women are clad in mourning.

But as I have already said, the leaders of the seven counterrevolutionary groupings have close links with Washington and are rejecting our peace-loving proposals. Moreover, they have tried to step up their actions against the DRA. Within the first month following our announcement of the national reconciliation policy they bombarded our announcement of the national reconciliation policy they bombarded our positions and populated localities more than 500 times, employing rockets, artillery, and mortars. This is considerably more than for the corresponding period last year. However, even the ranks of the counterrevolution are showing signs of a disarray caused by the mood of the broad masses of Afghan refugees who have hailed the end of the bloodshed. Despite the obstacles erected by the Pakistani and Iranian authorities, approximately 3,700 families have returned home in a single month -- a total of 17,500 people. A number of prominent figures among Afghan emigres in the United States have declared their support for the reconciliation program. Despite orders from Peshawar, many armed groups have joined the reconciliation process. In 1 month alone more than 10,000 men laid down their arms.

Thus it should be noted that a process of polarization of forces is occurring within the ranks of the counterrevolution. Not so long ago I met some former dushmans. Many of them condemned the extremist leaders who prefer not to risk their own lives but instead send hundreds of deluded men to their death. The time will come when these people will also understand where the truth is. We are convinced that, ultimately, the opponents of reconciliation will be isolated.

[Burtsev] And a last question: What would you like to wish our readers in the Soviet Union and abroad, especially in the countries of Asia and Africa?

[Najib] I wish the Soviet people success in the restructuring of social, political, and economic life now underway in the USSR, along with prosperity and a peaceful sky over their heads. For your foreign readers I wish happiness, peace, and prosperity. I particularly want to wish the Palestinians the speediest recovery of their homeland; the Iraqis and the Iranians -- and end to the war; the Indians -- peaceful development; Lebanon and Chad -- national reconciliation; the indigenous population of South Africa -- the granting of human rights; and, for all Afro-Asian peoples, peace and prosperity.

THAI FOREIGN MINISTER SITTHI CONCLUDES VISIT

LD141439 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] At the invitation of the Soviet Government, Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs Sitthi Sawetsila paid an official visit to the USSR 10-14 May.

A joint communique on the visit says Sitthi held with Eduard Amvrosyevich Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, and they continued the frank and friendly exchange of views begun in Bangkok in March this year The issues included Soviet-Thai relations, and key international problems, in particular the situation in southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

During an examination of bilateral relations the ministers discussed the ways and means of further expanding contacts in various fields, on the basis of reciprocity, mutual benefit, and equality.

The joint communique will be published in the press.

Sitthi Sawetsila left the USSR today.

'Joint Announcement' Published

PM151326 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

["Joint Announcement on the Visit of the Thai Foreign Minister to the USSR" -- IZVESTIYA headline]

[Text] Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Sitthi Sawetsila was in the USSR on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government 10-14 May.

Sitthi laid wreaths at the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall. He visited the Georgian SSR and Sochi.

He conveyed a message from Thai Prime Minister P. Tinsulanonda to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The Thai foreign minister was received by A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Meetings and conversations took place with V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, B.I. Aristov, USSR minister of foreign trade, and K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

Talks were held between E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, in the course of which they continued the frank [otkrovennyy] and friendly exchange of opinions which began in Bangkok in March on questions of Soviet-Thai relations and key international problems, in particular the situation in Southeast Asia and the Asian and Pacific region.

Examining bilateral relations, the ministers discussed ways and means of further widening various contacts on the basis of reciprocity, mutual advantage, and equality. Taking into account the potential which exists for the development of economic cooperation, the sides agreed the creation of an appropriate bilateral mechanism accords with this goal.

A protocol was signed on 12 May 1987 on the establishment of an intergovernmental joint Soviet-Thai commission on trade. B.I. Aristov and Sitthi signed the protocol.

The two sides noted the important role which the two countries' business circles could play in expanding Soviet-Thai trade.

The ministers declared their adherence to the provisions of the joint Soviet-Thai communique of 28 March 1979. Readiness was reaffirmed to expand cooperation for the sake of strengthening international stability and progress and achieving universal peace.

Both sides noted the usefulness of consultations between the foreign ministries, as well as within the framework of international organizations and at multilateral forums, and expressed the intention to continue this practice.

In discussing the international situation E.A. Shevardnadze drew attention to the Soviet Union's efforts to lessen tension and avert the nuclear threat. The great significance was stressed of the USSR's latest comprehensive proposals on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles in Europe and their radical reduction in Asia, the implementation of which would pave the way for other, deeper disarmament measures and promote a radical improvement in the situation in the world, and in Asia in particular.

Shevardnadze detailed the practical steps being taken by the Soviet Union to implement the initiatives put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in Vladivostok and during his visit to India.

Sitthi noted his country's desire to seek a substantial lessening of the international tension caused by the arms race, which is seriously undermining security and acting as a brake on the development of all states.

He welcomed the policy of peace and cooperation formulated by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on Vladivostok on 28 July 1986, stressing that it seeks a solution to the problems of security in Asia and the Pacific. He noted the need to strengthen confidence-building measures, which form the basis for fruitful and constructive cooperation among the region's countries.

He also expressed his viewpoint on the Cambodian question, saying he has been instructed by the ASEAN countries to present to the Soviet leadership their position on a Cambodian settlement based on the following fundamental principles: the withdrawal of foreign troops, the implementation of the Cambodian people's right to self-determination, and the formation of a neutral, nonaligned, and independent Cambodia.

The Thai foreign minister assessed positively the Soviet leaders' statements in favors of the speediest political resolution of the Cambodian problem, and, on behalf of the AEAN countries, expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will continue its active, constructive participation in efforts to achieve a peaceful, political solution to the Cambodian question.

E.A. Shevardnadze reaffirmed the USSR's principled position on the need for the settlement of regional conflict situations, including those in Southeast Asia, by political means at the conference table, and its interest in seeing lasting peace prevail in that region and an atmosphere of good-neighborliness and cooperation becoming established. The Soviet Union is prepared, to the extent of its opportunities, to promote a settlement of the Cambodian situation together with other states, including the ASEAN and Indochinese countries, and, along with the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, to guarantee generally acceptable accords.

The participants in the talks expressed the conviction that the Thai foreign minister's visit to the USSR and the exchange of opinions which took place will promote the further development of Soviet-Thai relations and the strengthening of mutual understanding between the two countries.

E.A. Shevardnadze, on behalf of the Soviet Government, conveyed an invitation to Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union.

Sitthi invited E.A. Shevardnadze to pay an official visit to Thailand. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

Talks Give 'New' Impetus

BK141145 Moscow in Thai to Thailand 1100 GMT 13 May 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Observers in Asia have given a positive assessment of the current Soviet-Thai talks in Moscow. First of all, with respect to ways to develop ties between the two countries, the two sides have shown a desire to further enhance political dialogue and bilateral contacts in various fields.

The talks in Moscow have also given new impetus to bilateral trade and economic ties.

Before leaving Moscow, Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, head of the visiting Thai delegation, said the Soviet national construction program initiated by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has created new opportunities for the expansion of Thai trade with the Soviet Union.

He said: I believe the Thai businessmen accompanying me on this visit to Moscow will be able to concretely fulfill the initiatives launched in Bangkok to expand mutually beneficial trade and establish joint investment enterprises. We wish to add here that the talks in Moscow also fixed attention on ways to implement the plan of the chambers of commerce of the two countries to hold regular trade information fairs and explore new fields of trade and economic cooperation.

Economic, cultural, and other ties can only flourish in an atmosphere of peace and peaceful coexistence between countries of different social systems, and it is for this reason that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visited Bangkok not long ago and the Thai foreign minister reciprocated by visiting the Soviet Union. Both officials followed up their previous discussions and showed interest in searching for ways to guarantee security in Asia and the Pacific. The Thai foreign minister noted the broad response of the countries in the region to Soviet initiatives for the area advanced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Vladivostok. Sitthi emphasized that the people in Asia and the Pacific have welcomed the positive signs of Soviet willingness to play an earnest and constructive role in promoting friendly relationship and useful cooperation among countries in the region.

The talks in Moscow also revealed close or similar views on a number of urgent international issues. Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze said the fact that both Thailand and the Soviet Union have the same view on the necessity for nuclear disarmament, for keeping militarism from spreading to space, and for removing the impasse from the regional conflicts has given the Soviet Union motivation. A settlement of the Cambodian problem was also discussed in Moscow. The Cambodian problem has complicated relations between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries and has worsened the situation in Southeast Asia, and it is clear the problem needs to be solved. However, there have been variant views about settling the problem. Certain western and other circles have tried to distort the true situation in Cambodia and have charged that the Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia are occupying the country and that Vietnam has aggressive designs. The motive of their efforts is to foment military tension along the Cambodian-Thai border and worsen confrontation between the ASEAN and Indochinese countries. The foreign military support for the Pol Pot clique is the real threat to Cambodia's security. In this situation, the insistence for immediate withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers from Cambodia is tantamount to leaving the Cambodians with the impossible task of defending themselves and allowing the genocidal Pot Pot clique, which killed some 3 million people, to return to power. It is absolutely not permissible to let the country which has suffered for so long to be deprived of friends from outside and to ignore the wishes of its people.

A settlement of the Cambodian problem is not easy but it is quite possible. The proposal of the Indochinese country calling for negotiations with the ASEAN countries could serve as a good basis for a settlement. It should be noted that a group of Vietnamese army volunteers was withdrawn from Cambodia earlier this year. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it supports productive negotiations on settlement of the Cambodian problem between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries.

Receiving Air Chief Marshal Sitthi, Soviet President Andrey Gromyko said his country welcomes and will continue to welcome the fact that Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos have sought to maintain goodneighborly relations with the ASEAN countries.

FIJI'S GANILAU PROCLAIMS STATE OF EMERGENCY

LD141751 Moscow TASS in English 1619 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] London May 14 TASS -- Fiji Governor-General Penaia Ganilau has proclaimed a state of emergency in that insular Pacific state and said he had assumed executive power following a military coup staged there this morning, REUTERS has reported.

The governor-general represents the British queen, who is Fiji's head of state.

Lt.-Col. Sitiveni Rabuka, who led the coup, twice met with Ganilau today, demanding recognition of his "military government."

But Ganilau in a radio statement described the coup as an "unlawful seizure" and said he was taking immediate steps to "restore the lawful situation".

He called on the population to abide by the constitution and urged all officers and men of the armed forces and members of the public service to return to their "lawful allegiance".

TASS Reviews Events

LD141301 Moscow TASS in English 1231 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Canberra May 14 TASS -- According to a report of the Australian news agency APP, a group of armed soldiers led by Army Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka broke into the Parliament building in the early morning and seized Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra and his cabinet members. According to eyewitnesses they were taken to an unknown destination in an army truck. Following which the local radio broadcast a statement by the information ministry, from which it follows that the Fijian Army had taken over control of the country.

A few hours after the coup Lieutenant-Colonel Rabuka held a press conference. He declared the suspension of the constitution, the closingof Parliament and his intention to head the "Transitional Council of Ministers" before the holding of new elections. He also said that he dismissed the former army command and was assuming the leadership of the army numbering 2,700 servicemen. Touching upon the destiny of the prime minister and other cabinet members, who were captured in the Parliament building, the lieutenant-colonel said that they were safe and would soon be released, yet they will have to remain under house arrest for some time.

The situation in that Pacific island state with a population of 714 thousand aggravated after general elections held last month. Most of the votes in the elections were won by the coalition of the Labour and National Federation Party supported by ethnic Indians who now make nearly a half of the country's population. It for the first time won a victory over the Alliance Party dominated by the indigenous Fijians, who make the other half of the population. The outcome of the elections caused a sharpening of intercommunal friction. Opposition called anti-Government demonstration by the Fijians.

Possible Foreign Policy Link

LD151017 Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] The governor general of Fiji, Penaia Ganilau, has declared illegal the seizure of power by mutineers in that insular state in the Pacific. However, the mutineers ignored his call to return to their barracks and placed the governor general himself under house arrest. Members of the government also remain under arrest. Lieutenant Colonel Rabuka who heads the coup announced the make-up of the new cabinet. A group of military men staged the coup a month after a coalition government led by Timothy Bavadra came to power in Fiji as a result of parliamentary elections. It said that in its foreign policy it would follow a course of nonalignment and of turning the region into a nuclear free zone. The FRANCE PRESS AGENCY says such a policy was not to Washington's liking. Observers don't rule out the possibility that the present events in Fiji are directly connected with (?this) stand of the United States.

GERASIMOV 'WELCOMES' JARUZELSKI'S ARMS PROPOSALS

AU150855 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 13 May 87 p 6

[Statement made to TRYBUNA LUDU by Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Office of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs -- date not given]

[Text] Comrade Wojciech Jaruzelski's initiative is very important and embraces a broad range of problems whose solution would help curb the number of nuclear and conventional weapons in the region in which the two political-military groups are in contact. The realization of the Jaruzelski plan could help decrease the level of confrontation in Europe and favor accelerated disarmament.

The USSR has always been pleased to welcome initiatives of the fraternal socialist countries on international affairs and their contribution toward joint efforts to make the world and Europe safer.

Poland's militance in world policy is universally known and enjoys respect. The Gomulka and Rapacki Plans have their place in history as initiatives seeking to consolidate peace and security.

Poland has now made the following initiatives:

-- It has put forward another plan-program for gradually withdrawing and reducing jointly stipulated operational and tactical nuclear weapons. As Comrade Jaruzelski stressed, all the kinds of these weapons should be included in appropriate negotiations.

-- It has proposed gradually withdrawing and reducing jointly stipulated kinds of conventional weapons, first of all -- which is most important -- all those that are most powerful and accurate in their destructive power. This measure would curb opportunities for sudden attack.

-- It has proposed to change military doctrines from offensive to strictly defensive.

As I said at my news conference (Gerasimov presented the Soviet stand on the Polish plan at the Tuesday briefing for foreign journalists -- TRYBUNA LUDU), we think the implementation of Jaruzelksi's plan could become an important element of Europe's stabilization. Polish proposals are also of great importance for the positive development of the entire pan-European process. It can be assumed that the Polish plan will be one of the subjects of the coming session of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact in Berlin.

I would like to draw attention to a number of especially important features of the Polish initiatives. First the plan not only provides for arms reductions, but also favors strengthening the countries' mutual trust by tackling the issue of military doctrines. Second, it defines the territorial limits that can be extended to other countries. Third, it helps to overcome the stalemate of the Vienna negotiations on mutual reductions of armed continued for many years and have so far achieved nothing. Jaruzelski's plan may help the negotiations leave the blind alley into which they have strayed.

Presenting first impressions of Jaruzelski's plan, it is necessary to note the open nature of his proposals. We could say the plan provides for four lines of action, but, at the same time, makes it possible to thoroughly discuss these proposals and give them concrete form.

The integrated [calosciowy] and comprehensive [kompleksowy] character of the plan is interesting. The plan speaks of tactical and operational nuclear weapons and of those conventional weapons that should be reduced to an agreed level because they constitute a special danger. It also speaks of something so far ignored by proposals: It speaks of the way in which defensive doctrines should be tackled -- of the mutual recognition of these doctrines. I think this need of the mutual recognition of doctrines is a crucial novelty insofar as disarmament proposals are concerned. Finally, the plan speaks of the need to take further action to increase security in the era of confidence. This should be taken to mean that further discussions can cover not only the issues of promoting military confidence, but also supra military means of confidence-building, which is also a most crucial element of discussion.

We should note that Jaruzelski's plan is not an attempt to shift danger from one European sub-region to other sub-regions. On the contrary, the plan has been submitted in the interest of all Europe. Why then does it apply first of all to central Europe? The answer is obvious: Central Europe is a region with an exceptional concentration of arms and armed forces and is an especially endangered region. That is why progress in central Europe would be of crucial significance for all Europe, as the plan states.

The plan also speaks of reduction in operational and tactical weapons, and in the appropriate kinds of conventional weapons. This means that weapons would not be shifted to other regions, but would be completely eliminated. [zredukowane]

Paper on Jaruzelski 'Milestone'

PM111401 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 May 87 Second Edition p 6

[Yevgeniy Grigoryev commentary: "The 'Jaruzelski Plan'"]

[Text] On the eve of Victory Day Poland has erected one more milestone in the struggle for peace in Europe. Warsaw has advanced a comprehensive plan to reduce arms and strengthen confidence in Central Europe. It was made public by the first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish Council of State and at once entered the contemporary international lexicon as the "Jaruzelski plan."

The idea of military detente on our continent is a constant in the Polish socialist state's foreign policy. In the past it inspired the "Rapacki plan." We also know of other Warsaw peace initiatives which have received international recognition.

The present Polish contribution assumes very great significance in terms of many parameters: in terms of the times, which demand of every country constructive efforts in favor of disarmament; in terms of the noble, humane aims underpinning the document that has been submitted; in terms of the novelty of the approach and the proposed actions; in terms of geography, because it involves gradually reducing nuclear and conventional arms in a region where the military-political alliances oppose each other in the most concentrated and dangerous way. In others words, It is a question of the key European section of the road to disarmament.

The comprehensive plan is not the sum of past proposals. European politics have been presented with an original document, the initial zone which it delineates, embracing Poland, the GDR, the CSSR, and Hungary, as well as the FRG, the Benelux countries, and Denmark, differs from the territorial framework of the other military detente measures under discussion. It is proposed to shift the center of gravity in conventional arms primarily toward reducing those with the maximum force and accuracy which can serve for a surprise attack. The question of changing the nature of military doctrines so they can be mutually recognized as exclusively defensive is being placed on the agenda for the first time.

The "Jaruzelski plan" will undoubtedly be the subject of broad public and interstate discussion because it represents a substantial part of the all-European process. The Polish initiative gives a useful boost to its development, to the strengthening of confidence and the achievement of disarmament. The comprehensive plan is consonant with the idea of a nuclear-free Europe and helps to realize it. Once again we note with fraternal gratitude that Poland, with its solid political potential and prestige, is making its active contribution to achieving the aims of the socialist community countries' concerted policy.

In European and world politics it is easy to note how the fraternal states are increasing their activeness aimed at solving urgent problems and restructuring international relations in the spirit of the new political thinking. The Soviet Union has followed up the draft treaty on the problem of medium-range missiles by placing another draft on the negotiating table in Geneva. It proposes the coordination of "key provisions of agreements" on a number of major disarmament problems, including strategic offensive arms. The record of constructive steps aimed at eliminating the threat of war and nuclear and chemical means of warfare includes bold, farsighted proposals from the GDR, the CSSR, and other fraternal states.

But what of West Europe? Where is the NATO countries' corresponding disarmament constructiveness, instead of the very persistent efforts by certain circles to erect barriers in the way of a nuclear-free world? One would like to hope that this will come in the end and that reason will prevail.

Peace initiatives and consistent efforts to realize them attest to the socialist states' high responsibility in the struggle for mankind's survival, for security and cooperation in Europe, and for the nuclear-free world of which all peoples dream. An example of international conduct worthy of all possible emulation in our critical times.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON DEMICHEV'S BULGARIAN VISIT

Meeting in Stara Zagora

LD140253 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 13 May 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The stay by a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation in Bulgaria continues.

[Begin correspondent D. Golovanov recording] There was a meeting between the Soviet parliamentarians' delegation and the leaders of Stara Zagora district and town.

Comrade Demichev spoke of work of the Soviets in our country and about further developing and deepening socialist direct ties established between enterprises in our country and in Stara Zagora.

Deputies from the USSR Supreme Soviet were invited today to the Beroe robotics works. It is part of one of the first Soviet-Bulgarian production associations. Together with the Moscow Krasniy Proletariy collective, the combine produces robotics centers and multifunction machining centers.

The Soviet guests familiarized themselves with the output of the international association, conversed with workers, engineers and managers at the works, taking an interest in work and living conditions.

There was a meeting of Bulgarian-Soviet friendship at the Beroe combine. Demichev addressed the meeting, noting the countries are marking the 20th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance. Over these years, our countries have travelled a long road: Quite a lot has already been done, but today the new stage of development of socialist society is setting new tasks for us. [end recording]

This afternoon the delegation visited the Memorial House in honor of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party on Buzludza Hill. Members of the delegation laid flowers at the memorial in Spika honoring the Russian servicemen who died liberating Bulgaria from the Ottoman yoke and defending the Sipcenski Pass. In the evening, the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation arrived in the town of Veliko Turnovo. There was a meeting between the delegation and the party leadership and representatives of the people of Veliko Turnovo district at the BCP district committee.

Visits Veliko Turnovo

LD142345 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 14 May 87

[D. Golovanov video report from Veliko Turnovo; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by Comrade Demichev, on an official friendly visit to Bulgaria, visited the ancient capital of the country, the city of Veliko Turnovo.

[Golovanov] This city is rightly considered one of the most beautiful in Bulgaria. Sprawling over the hills on the banks of the River Yantra, it harmoniously blends the ancient and modern. In Veliko Turnovo there was a meeting with leaders of the district and city. Petr Nilovich Demichev spoke about the process of further democratization of our society and about restructuring in all walks of life. Comrade Tsonev, first secretary of the district BPC committee, gave particular prominence to diverse and fruitful contacts and the development of direct links with Soviet enterprises and organizations. Deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet acquainted themselves with great interest with the exhibits at the exhibition of the achievements of the national economy of the district.

[Announcer] This evening the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation arrived in the city of Varno.

MONTENEGRO'S VUKADINOVIC ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

LD101225 Moscow TASS in English 1205 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS -- Today Vuko Vukadinovic, president of the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro (SFRY), arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation on a friendly visit.

He was welcomed by Vitaliy Vorotnikov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Council of the Ministers of the Russian Federation, and other officials at the airport.

Meets Vorotnikov, Kamentsev

PM121545 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Stay in Moscow"]

[Text] On 11 May V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, met with V. Vukadinovic, president of the Montenegro (SFRY) Republic Executive Council, who is on a friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the RSFSR Government.

During a warm and friendly talk there was an exchange of information on how current problems of political and socioeconomic development are being solved in the two republics. V.I. Vorotnikov talked about the progress of restructuring and about the profound transformations under way in all areas of Soviet society's life. The guest described the main directions of the work to implement the long-term economic stabilization program adopted in the SFRY.

It was noted with satisfaction that trust and mutual understanding are inherent in Soviet-Yugoslav relations. Multifaceted and mutually advantageous cooperation is developing between the two countries.

The same day V. Vukadinovic was received by V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Questions of the state of and prospects for the development of Soviet-Yugoslav trade and economic ties were discussed.

Holds Economic Talks

LD140552 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1029 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 13 May (TANJUG) -- A delegation of the Montenegro Executive Council met with the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. Committee chairman Katushev and president of the Montenegro executive council Vuko Vukadinovic exchanged views on ways to further advance economic ties between Montenegro firms and their Soviet partners. The talks were also attended by Yugoslav ambassdor Milan Verses.

Today, the Montenegro delegation toured the Leninskiy Komsomol car factory and this afternoon will conduct closing talks with Vitaliy Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and head of the RSFSR Government.

Signs Cooperation Guidelines

LD131826 Moscow TASS in English 1720 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- The meetings and conversations with Vuko Vukadinovic, president of the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro (Yugoslavia), in Moscow have shown the existence of broad opportunities for further strengthening Soviet-Yugoslavian relations as a whole, for improving and deepening diverse ties between the Russian Federation and Montenegro. This was marked today during the final conversation between Vitaliy Vorotnikov, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, and Vuko Vukadinovic.

The sides reviewed the results of Vukadinovic's friendly visit to the Soviet Union and expressed mutual conviction of the need to develop progressive forms of cooperation through co-production, direct ties between Soviet and Yugoslavian enterprises, as well as joint ventures. They paid considerable attention to scientific and cultural cooperation.

Today, Vorotnikov and Vukadinovic signed the guidelines for cooperation between the Russian Federation and Montenegro for the years 1988-1990.

VORONIN SEES ZHIVKOV, SIGNS ACCORD IN SOFIA

PM141501 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Documents Signed"]

[Text] Sofia, 13 May -- T. Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, received L.A. Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gossnab, here today.

Attention during the meeting focused mainly on new opportunities for the development of direct cooperation between the two countries' economic organizations and state committees for material and technical supplies, which would help to increase commodity turnover and make more efficient use of the raw material base and production capacities.

On the same day, O. Doynov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the National Economic Council under the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, and L.A. Voronin signed an agreement between the USSR Gossnab and the Material Resources Committee under the Bulgarian Council of Ministers on cooperation in material and technical supplies in 1987-1990, and a protocol on the results of talks on the expansion and deepening of cooperation and integration between the two countries in this sphere.

PAPER ON 'INDESTRUCTIBILITY' OF USSR-CSSR TIES

PM140911 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 6 May 87 p 3

[Article by V. Lapin: "Treaty Of Fraternity"]

[Text] For the Soviet and Czechoslovak peoples May is significant not only as a great date in their history -- victory celebrations and the day of Czechoslovakia's liberation from the fascist aggressors -- but also as an important milestone in the development of fraternal relations between the two countries. The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance Between the USSR and the CSSR was signed 6 May 1970.

It was the third fundamental political treaty between Czechoslovakia and the USSR and incorporated the positive experience of mutual relations over several decades. Compared with previous treaties, it was notable for expressing the Marxist-Leninist ideological unity of the two parties, the CPSU and CPCZ -- the leading political forces of the Soviet and Czechoslovak peoples in the creation of a new social system. This major document created broad prospects for economic, scientific-technical, cultural, and political cooperation corresponding to the needs of the building and improvement of developed socialism. The 17 years since the treaty was signed have brought our peoples even closer together and made it possible to attain high levels of development. Today you will not find a single area of socioeconomic life which has not been affected by the positive results of close cooperation between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev's recent official friendly visit to Czechoslovakia was a new confirmation of the indestructibility of the ties of friendship and fraternity between our peoples. It also demonstrated the mutual desire of Soviet and Czechoslovak Communists and the peoples of our countries to raise all cooperation to a radically new and qualitatively higher level. This is the demand of the times, a prerequisite for ensuring the historically logical accelerated development of our countries and of the entire socialist community.

Assessing the lasting alliance between the CSSR and the USSR at the Czechoslovak Communists' 17th congress, CPCZ Central Committee General Secretary G. Husak stressed that is not only a revolutionary legacy but something that lives today, not only a matter of the intellect but also of the heart. The truth of these words is confirmed by the specific deeds of our countries' working people.

REPORTAGE ON FRENCH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S VISIT

Arrives 14 May

LD141315 Moscow TASS in English 1304 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 14 TASS -- Today French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac arrived in Moscow on an official visit. He was invited by the Soviet Government.

At the airport Jacques Chirac was welcomed by Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign minister, and other officials.

Gorbachev, Others Attend Dinner

LD141725 Moscow TASS in English 1643 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 14 TASS -- A dinner in honour of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was held on behalf of the Soviet Government in the Grand Kremlin Palace today.

French officials accompanying Jacques Chirac on his tour were present at the dinner together with him.

Present from the Soviet side were Mikhail Gorbachev, Nikolay Ryzhkov, Eduard Shevardnadze, Aleksandr Yakovlev, Anatoliy Dobrynin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR ministers, chairmen of the USSR State Committees, other officials.

Nikolay Ryzhkov and Jacques Chirac exchanged speeches at the dinner which passed in a friendly atmosphere.

Paris Radio on Dinner

LD142117 Paris Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Guess who is coming to dinner this evening? Mikhail Gorbachev invited himself, to some extent, to the table of Soviet Prime Minister Ryzhkov who was receiving Jacques Chirac for dinner only a few hours after the arrival of the French prime minister in Moscow. It all came as a surprise because Jacques Chirac did not think he would meet the Soviet leader before their official rendezvous tomorrow. One of our special correspondents in Moscow, Ralph Pinto is on the line:

[Pinto] The Kremlin surpise is called simply Mikhail Gorbachev. He attended a dinner planned in theory for the two prime ministers, Chirac and Ryzhkov. Mr Gorbachev was present but silent, although he followed, text in hand, the French prime minister's speech.

What did Chirac say? Firstly, he recalled De Gaulle whose heir he is: Jacques Chirac also insisted on the nuclear deterrent saying that deterrent and disarmament do not contradict one another.

Jacques Chirac, moreover, recalled that Francois Mitterrand had said similar things on the subject here in the Kremlin last July letting it be understood clearly that in this sensitive field there is only one line in Paris.

One can note, however, that the French prime minister did not want to hit too hard from the start. In the final analysis, he also followed his own text yet he could have added to it a little in order to answer the head of the Soviet Government who, for example, deplored the expressions of enmity toward Moscow which, he said, are becoming to some extent the fashion in Paris.

Ryzhkov Dinner Speech

PM151109 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In a Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Text] Esteemed Prime Minister,

Esteemed Comrade General Secretary,

Esteemed Guests, Comrades!

Allow me, on behalf of the Soviet leadership to welcome Mr Jacques Chirac, the head of the Government of France, a country relations with which are traditionally regarded in the Soviet Union as an important link in European and world politics. Speaking in the Parisian Mairie in October 1985, M.S. Gorbachev said that the USSR and France had on many occasions been together on the side of common sense in the resolution of some far from simple problems of the continent. These words express the positive attitude of our country toward cooperation with France in international affairs. Your visit, Mr Prime Minister, and the Soviet-French talks and conversations, come at an extremely crucial moment in European and world history.

Indeed, today it is being more and more clearly understood that the arms race and mutual mistrust is a road leading nowhere, a road to the self-destruction of human civilization. It is becoming more and more obvious that confrontation, the policy of force and militarism in all its manifestations are blocking the resolution of regional conflicts, fraught with a constant threat to the whole world, as well as of the global problems at the end of the second millenium, such as the problems of abolishing poverty and hunger, preserving the environment, and providing all people with opportunities for worthy development.

A sincere desire to make our contribution to solving the vital problems of the present time prompts the Soviet Union -- and not only us -- to look afresh at the state of international relations. Together with other countries, we are prepared to seek a road to a peace that would be based not on nuclear force, not on egoism and hostility, but on awareness of the community and mutual dependence of the destinies of the East and West, the North and South.

In this lies the meaning of our call to demonstrate the new thinking in practice. But not only a call. Not permitting a gap between word and deed, we are persistently and honestly proposing practical solutions to the problems that have accumulated, well-balanced compromises based on mutually taking into account each other's legitimate interests. And we embody the political will of our party and the Soviet people in the initiatives which bring closer and make more and more real the prospect of reducing the nuclear threat, banning chemical weapons, and cutting armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe.

Taking shape today, though not without serious difficulties, are the contours of an accord on the liquidation of entire categories of nuclear missiles in Europe. If this happens, then Europe and the entire world will be able to write into history a great page of wisdom and political foresight. Let us imagine together how the political atmosphere of East-West relations, and international relations as a whole, would radically change for the better.

At the same time, we cannot fail to see that in certain West European capitals, which just a short while ago had been calling on us to show understanding for their concern over the presence of Soviet missiles in Europe, doubts are now being expressed, and sometimes even outright objections. When it is a matter of something out of the ordinary, something unaccustomed, hesitations may sometimes arise. Obviously, what is needed to overcome them is political courage and an ability to look beyond the horizon of the present day. For us, reliable guarantees of security in all stages of the advance toward a nuclear-free world are indeed no less important then for the West. But we are convinced that the starting point should be not fear of the future without nuclear weapons, but the resolve to build by joint efforts firm, all-embracing security in all its azimuths -- political, military, economic and humanitarian.

The creation of a future Europe which would never again know wars is, of course, a very difficult thing. But there is no alternative to it, just as there is no possibility of postponing such a task to the future. Time cannot be stopped. We are laying the foundations for our future of Europe and the entire world, today. It will depend on our joint quests and actions and the collaboration of peoples and states with different social systems -- such varied ones: large, medium-sized, and small -- whether the world will be able to enter the third millennium in peace.

Europe has a decisive role in this historic cause. On the one hand, huge masses of forces are standing opposite each other, and an unprecedented build-up of arms of various types and purposes is continuing. But on the other hand, it is precisely here that unique experience in detente and broad cooperation of many levels has been accumulated. Our common European home must and can become, not a test site for military confrontation, but a university of new thinking, and show all the others an example of a non-violent approach to the solution of problems. It will depend on the "European response" to the challenge of the military-political realities of the present day where international development will head. Of course, this response is formed from the responses of all European countries, and it is not a matter of indifference what the response of France and its government will be in this context.

Today, naturally, Soviet people are wondering what role France is able and willing to play at this turning point for the fate of Europe and the world. Unfortunately, we now do not see France among those who are against mutual nuclear deterrence, against one another, and who want to stop the roulette wheel of military risks in Europe and to reduce the stakes placed on self-destruction. In the policy of the French Government, particularly in nuclear missile matters, there are elements that arouse concern.

It is as if the productiveness of the Soviet-French political dialogue, its thrust toward an improvement of the situation, primarily on the European Continent, is in some way receding to a secondary rank in the present-day priorities of the French Government. This concerns us, as does the fact that in bilateral relations in recent times, snags have again appeared, complications have started to increase. Soviet people refuse to understand why it is that in France, to whose people we wish only well, manifestations of unfriendliness toward our country and our representatives are becoming an epidemic.

We perceive, to put it mildly, a guarded attitude by French representatives toward our proposal about an open and public discussion of the problems of humanitarian cooperation in all aspects, about the convocation of a representative international conference for this purpose in Moscow. Surely this is not only because the Soviet Union holds the authorship of this proposal? One would wish to expect of France, which has prided itself since the days of the great French revolution on its adherence to humanitarian traditions and human rights, a broader view of things.

The experience of Soviet-French cooperation, particularly starting from General de Gaulle, convinces one that our countries succeeded in overcoming negative tendencies when not narrow, but all-European interests, and interests common to all mankind were put in first place. In the most difficult moments, our peoples were together shoulder to shoulder. Joint efforts by our two countries contributed in many ways to the overcoming of the "cold war" atmosphere, and to the establishment of the policy of detente. The peak of Soviet-French cooperation fell precisely on this stage in European history. We would also like to believe today that the USSR and France are inspired by a mutual concern for the security of our common European abode.

In the past, difficult periods in relations between our countries have occurred more than once but, rising above discord and contradictions, we have managed to overcome them and make our relations stronger, richer and more comprehensive. One must say frankly that today Soviet-French cooperation is undergoing a very strict test -- an examination for the future, and one would like to hope that it will be passed worthily. As for the Soviet Union, it is willing to engage in the most broad and constructive cooperation with France, both bilaterally and in the international arena, in the interests of strengthening of detente and peace in Europe and beyond, and in the interests of solving the global problems facing mankind.

Efforts to eliminate all that hinders the normal development of our trade, economic, scientific, and technical ties will unquestionably serve the further improvement of Soviet-French relations. We also support the widening of traditional exchanges between our countries in the cultural sphere.

Restructuring, the profound and revolutionary reforms in our country and the fresh and realistic approaches to international affairs are also opening up unprecedented opportunities for Soviet-French relations to take off again. The visit to France of M.S. Gorbachev in 1985 and the talks in Moscow with President F. Mitterrand were most important landmarks in these relations. Now, too, we strive to pursue in our relations with France a policy aimed at their dynamic development, a policy which we have followed at these talks.

We hope that the direct and frank [otkrovenniy] exchange of views begun today with the prime minister of France will also help a turnabout in the dialogue with the French Government toward joint thoughts and actions to benefit the liberation of Europe and the world from the military threat.

Permit me to wish you a pleasant and fruitful stay in our country.

We wish the friendly French people progress and prosperity!

Meets With Gorbachev

LD150720 Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 15 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received Prime Minister Jacques Chirac of France in the Kremlin today.

The head of the French Government has been in Moscow since Thursday on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Ryzhkov-Chirac Talks

PM151125 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 May 87 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Official Visit"]

[Text] Talks between N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and French Prime Minister J. Chirac began in the Kremlin 14 May.

Greeting the prime minister, N.I. Ryzhkov spoke in favor of the Soviet-French talks and conversations making it possible to deepen political dialogue between the USSR and France and gear it toward seeking practical possibilities for collaboration between the two countries with the aim of improving international relations.

In a spirit of directness [pryamota], openness [otkrytost], and of a desire to understand one another's positions better, the sides exchanged opinions on the present and future of Soviet-French cooperation in the context of the evolution of the situation in Europe and the world as a whole. Both sides are agreed that the further development of this cooperation is in the interests of the Soviet and French peoples and will serve to enhance trust and strengthen international detente and stability.

In view of the interest shown by J. Chirac, N.I. Ryzhkov informed him on the main aspects of the restructuring process under way in the Soviet Union and dwelt on its organic interconnection with the USSR's foreign policy initiatives.

The talks will be continued. Taking part are: on the Soviet side, E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Ya.P. Ryabov, USSR ambassador to France; A.G. Kovalev, USSR first deputy foreign minister; V.L. Malkevich, USSR first deputy foreign trade minister; G.I. Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration; and N.N. Afanasyevskiy, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry First European Department; on the French side -- J.-B. Raimond, French foreign minister; Y. Pagniez, French ambassador to the USSR; D. Baudouin, adviser to the French prime minister; F. Bujon de L'estang, adviser on issues of foreign policy, defense, and cooperation in the prime minister's office; M. Rousson, head of the prime minister's office; J.-P. Lafon, J. Picq, and P. Vial, advisers in the prime minister's office; J. Blot, director of the French Foreign Ministry European Department; and F. David, director of the foreign economic ties administration in the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Privatization.

TOLSTYKH, DELEGATION ARRIVE IN FINLAND 14 MAY

LD141514 Moscow TASS in English 1337 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Helsinki May 14 TASS -- A Soviet Government delegation led by Boris Tolstykh, vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, has arrived here today. The Soviet guests will attend the opening of the USSR national exhibition in Helsinki and familiarise themselves with the operation of a number of mills and factories.

Today Boris Tolstykh met with Kalevi Sorsa, Finnish deputy prime minister, and Ilkka Suominen, Finnish minister of trade and industry. The meetings were attended by USSR ambassador to Finland Vladimir Sobolev.

The meetings and talks covered questions related to prospects for a further development of Soviet-Finnish business cooperation.

FINNS LAUNCH SOVIET-ORDERED ICEBREAKER

PM140921 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Correspondent N. Ivanov report under the rubric "Finland-USSR": "'Taymyr' Under Construction"]

[Text] Helsinki -- One of the two nuclear icebreakers under construction at the Wartsila shipyards for an order from the Soviet Union has been launched.

The maiden voyage of the Taymyr -- this is what the ship has been called -- was a short one. It was immediately towed to its moorings. According to the plan, the Finnish shipbuilders will complete work at the end of next year. After this, the Taymyr will be towed to Leningrad, where it will be fitted with a nuclear reactor. It is thought that the new icebreaker will be ready for its voyage to the Arctic by 1990.

This is the first icebreaker to be built in a Finnish shipyard. Its creation was made possible thanks to close cooperation between specialists from the two countries. The Taymyr will be able to break through ice up to approximately 2 metres thick. Unlike previous nuclear-powered vessels, its shallow draft will allow it to enter the mouths of northern rivers. This will considerably broaden the scope of winter navigation.

TIMOSHKIN COMMENTS ON SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

LD132042 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 May 87

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program, presented by Aleksandr Timoshkin]

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Egypt, held talks for 1 and 1/2 hours (?yesterday) with Gennadiy Zhuravlev, the Soviet ambassador to Cairo. President Husni Mubarak received the ambassador a week ago. In these talks, great attention was devoted to the state of Soviet-Egyptian relations. What can be said in this context?

[Timoshkin] The facts indicate tht these relations are heading toward positive development. The experience of the 1970's categorically indicated that the folding, or rather the aggravation of bilateral relations did not agree at all with the national interests of Egypt in the first place. Therefore, it was the one to initiate their normalization and development. The USSR agreed to this, thus leading to the signing of several mutually beneficial agreements in the commercial and economic fields. By the way, our country agreed to give Egypt better terms in settling its debts, a matter that was appreciated by official and social quarters in Egypt. A new Soviet-Egyptian agreement is expected that will provide all the necessary conditions for economic, commercial, technical, and other cooperation in the future. The principles here are unchanged: Complete equality, respect for mutual interests, and noninterference in internal affairs.

JORDAN DENIES FAVORING LESSER SOVIET MIDEAST ROLE

LD131742 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- TASS commentator Grigoriy Vasilyev writes:

Jordan's Minister of Information Muhammad al-Khatib rejected as false and senseless a report in THE NEW YORK TIMES that Jordan gave consent to the lessening of the USSR's role in the working out of the Middle East settlement. As foreign news agencies report, the minister emphasized that Jordan declares for genuine international conference on the Middle East with full participation of all permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Observers note the fact that the publication in THE NEW YORK TIMES appeared after an interview by King Husayn to the BOSTON GLOBE. The king unambiguously rejected direct talks with Israel, condemned secret deliveries of U.S. arms to Iran that undermine the confidence in Washington in the Arab world. Noting unconditional support of Israel by the United States, the king of Jordan emphasized that Washington cannot play the role of an honest broker in the Middle East.

There is no doubt that insinuations in the U.S. press stem from the annoyance that a sharp fall in the prestige of the USA in the Near and Middle East causes in Washington. While saying that it is for the settlement of conflicts in the area, the United States is actually concerned only over its own interests and the interests of its ally in the anti-Arab alliance, Israel. It is precisely Washington's neoglobalist hypocritical policy whose champion is Tel Aviv that leads to the widening of the scope of the Iran-Iraq war, blocks the roads to the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. And this cannot be concealed either by the attempts to distort the stand of Arab countries or regular trips of high U.S. officials to countries of the region, or by the hypocritical statements about the U.S. "striving for peace".

LIBYAN VISIT TO USSR SIGN OF 'CORDIAL' RELATIONS

LD101731 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 May 87

[Gregoriy Nikolay commentary entitled "In Order to Eliminate the Hotbed of Tension in Africa" -- from the "Behind the Events" Program]

[Text] A Libyan delegation headed by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, paid a visit to the Soviet Union lasting several days. The talks covered vast areas of bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest. Great and special attention was given to the situation in Chad. This purely internal dispute is being exploited by imperialist forces to intensify the campaign against Libya. A year ago the United States, in cooperation with Britain, committed an aggression against Libya. The bestial action, which claimed civilian lives in Tripoli and Banghazi, evoked a great wave of resentment throughout the world. Most states expressed solidarity with the valiant Libyan people and the aggression became a severe military and political defeat for Washington. Imperialism, however -- and particularly U.S. imperialism -- never abandoned its aggressive designs against Libya. Exploiting the increasing internal conflicts in Chad, the United States began sending arms and ammunition to that country in a clear attempt to internationalize the conflict and create a new hotbed of tension on Libyan borders. France sent its forces there. As a result of these moves, the situation became highly explosive.

The Soviet Union has adopted a clear position on the Chadian problem, opposing its use as a pretext for new imperialist pressure on the Libyan Jamahiriyah. It firmly condemned the Western states' interference in Chad's affairs, which is not motivated by an interest in the welfare of that country but is rather an attempt to set up a lackey state close to Libyan borders. This Soviet position was most emphatically reaffirmed during the talks with the Libyan delegation. Firm conviction was voiced that the Chadian problem must be solved on the basis of a (?tripartite) settlement of the disputed isses. This should begin with the withdrawal of foreign forces from Chad. This a precondition for a natural evolution of the national reconciliation process in that African country. Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi's visit was generally just another aspect of Soviet-Libyan solidarity and the traditionally cordial relations that have existed since the Libyan 1 September 1969 revolution.

ARAB TOUR BY RICHARD MURPHY OF 'DOUBLE NATURE'

LD13200 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 May 87

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program, presented by Aleksandr Timoshkin]

[Text] There is an impression that the so-called freighters war has widened the Iraq-Iran conflict. The Indian vessel "Amblecar" was attacked yesterday in the southern part of the Gulf by unmarked war boats, and a fire broke out onboard. Last week, the Soviet vessel "Ivan Kotroteyev" was attacked. Attacks on merchants ships in the Gulf create negative reactions in the countries that own them, and this can only increase the dangerous tension in the Gulf. If events continue to develop in this direction, it is very likely that the Iraq-Iran armed conflict will be internationalized. What calls for attention at a time when intensive regional and international efforts are being made to halt the war between Iraq and Iran. Such efforts are also being exerted by the USSR, which has considered this war from its start as senseless, from the viewpoint of the national interests of the two warring parties.

Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, is touring the countries of the Arab Gulf at present. His statements there are of a double nature: On the one hand he is calling for the end of the Iraq-Iran war, and claims that the United States will not deliver arms to Iran from now on; and on the other, he says that the United States will do all that is necessary to guarantee the safety of navigation in the Gulf, not only to vessels hoisting the U.S. flag. He insists on proposing to the Arab countries the provision of military protection for their ships. I recall that a few years ago the United States amassed in the Arab Sea a large number of warships and lately in the Gulf itself. The United States is looking for an excuse to use its fleet. In the last few days the United States has been reminding the world of the Rapid Deployment Force, which can be used to protect its national interests in the region. Naturally this development of events make it even more necessary to halt the Iraq-Iran war, because its continuation could lead to untold consequences. Incidentally, Iraq has for long been expressing readiness for this, and has made several constructive peace proposals.

Grechkov Comments

LD131941 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 May 87

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program, presented by Nikolay Grechkov]

[Text] Richard Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for near eastern and south Asian affairs, is continuing his tour of a number of Gulf countries. We begin today's program, which was written by Nikolay Grechkov, by commenting on this tour.

[Grechkov] The current tour of the U.S envoy is the center of great attention, not only in the countries he is visiting, but also outside the Gulf region. The reason for this, first of all, is the mission entrusted to Richard Murphy, which is [words indistinct]. This mission can be summarized as an attempt by the U.S. Administration to gain the trust of the Arab states, a trust that was strongly shaken because of the scandal involving the secret shipment of American arms to Iran. During the 6-year-old Iran-Iraq war, Washington used to say to the whole world that it was neutral. It repeatedly said that it wished to settle this bloody conflict as soon as possible. The Irangate scandal followed and completely falsified these allegations and exposed U.S. policy toward the Gulf war. One can say that the worst pain caused by Irangate was in the Arab Gulf states because, in the first place, Washington always used to call these states its oldest friends, and in the second place, because the security of these very states, more than any others, was affected by the continuation of the Gulf war. Therefore, they have a vital interest in ending this conflict.

As Irangate proved, the U.S. Administration was fuelling the war to achieve its own hostile interests. Now Washington is trying, through its envoy, to convince the Gulf states that its two-faced policy in the region is finished. What are the proofs presented by Richard Murphy during hs tour?

One can pass judgement on this following the news conference he held in Kuwait yesterday. He said: Our policy stems from the efforts we are exercising -- and we are being encouraged in this by our friends and allies -- to stop selling arms to Iran. Then he said, without going into detail, that one should judge the United States by its deeds.

From these words, one can conclude that Murphy came to the Gulf region [words indistinct] he nas nothing to propose. As for Washington's concrete deeds, they reveal the opposite, and the evident proof of this is the Irangate scandal itself. [paragraph continues]

The current congressional investigation of this case reveals more and more details of the concrete deeds of the Reagan administration, which longs to fuel the Gulf war. It may be said that the talk here is about the past, even if the past is a distant one. In this case, however, how can one explain the fact that the White House spokesman said, following Reagan's meeting with the Arab League delegation, that the United States is not now exporting arms to Iran, but he declined to give a straightforward answer to the question as to whether the U.S. President categorically promised not to do so in the future.

The Kuwaiti paper Al-RAY'AL-AMM strongly commented on Murphy's visit, saying: The United States will not deceive us this time as it did before. We do not believe them again.

U.S. Policy 'Two-Faced'

["Commentator's Column" by Yuriy Glukhov: "A Double Game"]

PM131550 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 87 Second Edition p 5

[Text] Beirut — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State R. Murphy is completing his tour of Persian Gulf countries.

His trip has attracted considerable attention. Above all because it coincided with the resumption in the U.S. Congress of the hearings of testimonies on the "Irangate" affair. As the tangle of illegal, behind-the-scenes machinations involving influential circles in the United States, Israel, and Iran is unraveled, so Washington's prestige in the Arab East steadily sinks.

It is becoming obvious even to people who are not very well versed in politics that in the Iran-Iraq conflict, as in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the White House has long been playing a double game. On the one hand, Washington is making a show of "concern" over the exacerbation of tension, and on the other it is still gambling on the further exacerbation of the situation so as to extract the maximum advantage for itself.

Murphy's mission is a continuation of this same two-faced policy. It clearly amounted to an attempt to stifle the sharply negative response aroused in Arab countries by the exposure on the secret American weapons deals aimed at dragging out the Iran-Iraq conflict.

It must be noted that the U.S. envoy's attempts to whitewash Washington's policy and present it in a favorable light yielded no particular results. The newspaper Al-BAYAN, which is published in Dubai (United Arab Emirates), where Murphy went, noted in this connection: "U.S. policy is hostile to the Arabs. U.S.-made planes and missiles kill women, children, and old men in Lebanon, destroy settlements, and make people refugees." The aim of Murphy's trip, Syria's AL-THAWRAH wrote, "is to strengthen the U.S. presence in the region in the hope of exploiting the conflict situation."

It is also noteworthy that while Murphy was on his trip, Sudan once again officially renounced military cooperation with the Pentagon. As a spokesman for that country's government stated, Sudan will not take part in the Bright Star maneuvers due to be held in the Near East, in which the U.S. "Rapid Deployment Forces" are involved.

In this situation assurances from the assistant U.S. secretary of state on the White House's desire to play a "constructive role" in settling the region's acute problems could not mislead anyone. Washington's course in the Near East and the Persian Gulf region remains anti-Arab, adventurist, and hegemonist. And no efforts on the part of high-ranking envoys can conceal that fact.

POLITBURO SESSION NOTES RESULTS OF ENTERPRISE LAW

LD141814 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] At a session on 14 May, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo discussed matters regarding the preparation of the report and other documents for the next CPSU Central Committee Plenum on the fundamental restructuring of the country's economic management.

The Politburo considered the matter of the results of the nationwide discussion on the USSR Draft Law on State Enterprises. As was noted at the session, the draft aroused profound interest and approval by the Soviet people. Certain clauses of the draft, in particular transferring to complete financial autonomy and self-financing, increasing the independence and responsibility of enterprises, and the implementation of true socialist self-management received special support.

Numerous proposals and comments made by the working people are assisting in strengthening the clauses of the draft law relating to the role of labor collectives in the public production sector, and to the elections of leading management.

The Politburo stressed that the adoption of this important legislative document will lay a durable foundation for a future integral system of economic management. It was considered to be expedient to discuss the draft law in detail, taking into account the comments and suggestions of the working people at the next plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, and to present it for consideration by the USSR Supreme Soviet.

In keeping with the directives of the 27th CPSU Congress, proposals were considered on the basic guidelines in restructuring the system of managing labor and social development, organically linked with the transfer to new methods of management, and with the extension of democracy. It was recognized as necessary to raise the efficiency of the management of the processes of social development at all levels, taking into account the extension of the rights and opportunities of labor collectives in resolving social issues on the basis of the clauses of the USSR Draft Law on State Enterprises.

Measures were mapped out for the growth of labor productivity, for stepping up the incentive role of wages, and for raising the effectiveness of social undertakings aimed at improving Soviet people's living conditions. It was pointed out that in accordance with the new tasks, the roles played by, and the responsibility of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, for pursuing an active state policy in labor, wages, the provision of pensions and social development, are growing.

The results of the meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Todor Zhivkov were discussed and approved. At the Politburo meeting it was noted that cooperation between the two fraternal parties and countries is continuing to develop successfully. Confirmation was given of their resolve to actively interact, with the aim of removing the nuclear threat, of disarmament, and of creating a comprehensive international security system. Matters relating to the further development of economic and other links between the Soviet Union and Bulgaria were examined.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo discussed the results of the meeting and talks held between Comrades Gromyko and Shevardnadze, and Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Sitthi, and also examined certain other matters, on which appropriate decisions were adopted.

GORBACHEV, ZAYKOV, OTHERS VISIT BAYKONUR COSMODROME

LD131451 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited the Baykonur cosmodrome and the town of Leninisk, Kazakh SSR, 11-13 May. During his stay in these places, Comrade Gorbachev had many meetings and conversations with scientists, specialists, workers and technicians and also with the residents of the town. The CPSU Central Committee general secretary laid flowers at the memorial to Vladimir Ilich Lenin. Comrade Gorbachev saw examples of space technology on show at the cosmodrome. It is from this unique research and testing complex that Soviet manned and automatic spacecraft are launched. It is from here that the launch of the Mir space station, now working in space, was carried out. Leninisk, a modern town bearing the name of the leader of the revolution, and the administrative center of the cosmodrome, has grown up here alongside the laboratories, the test rigs, and the launch pads. There was an exhibition of space apparatus used for the purposes of the national economy, for communications, television, meteorology, and space research. At present work is in progress at the cosmodrome to prepare for the launch of a new general purpose carrier rocket capable of putting both multiple-trip orbital craft and large-size spacecraft for scientific and economic purposes into low orbit, including modules for long-term stations.

During the conversations that took place with development and test engineers, it was noted that cosmonautics is at the forefront of scientific-technological progress, embodying the latest achievements of many spheres of our country's science and technology. It has made it possible to expand the frontiers of human activity, and has joined virtually all the world's countries in a unified network of communications and television. It has opened up great opportunities for deeper study of the natural resources of our planet, for research into atmospheric and weather phenomena, and for the manufacture of new, super-pure materials. In this connection, the importance of the further development of space technology, primarily for peaceful ends, and of the expansion of international cooperation in the field of space research was stressed.

During his meetings, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev devoted great attention to the social and everyday conditions for workers of the cosmodrome. He visited the House of Pioneers, a store, a sports complex, and other facilities and had conversations with the residents of the town. It was noted that people are living and working here in severe climatic conditions. In connection with this, questions of the working people's welfare and leisure assume particularly important significance. Much has been done in the town of Leninsk to satisfy the increasing requirements of the population. However, there are also quite a number of unsolved problems. Party and soviet organs, those in charge of enterprises and organizations have been instructed to take the social sphere in hand and to devote more attention to these questions.

All those with whom the CPSU Central Committee general secretary had conversations spoke of full support for the course aimed at accelerating the country's social and economic development worked out by the Central Committee April Plenum and by the 27th party congress. The collectives of Leninsk enterprises have actively joined in the restructuring of all aspects of life. They work at a tense pace, with good and lively mood, struggling persistently to fulfill the high socialist pledges in honor of the 70th Great October Socialist Revolution anniversary.

A meeting between Comrade Gorbachev and representatives of the workforces of the cosmodrome and of the town of Leninsk took place at the local palace of culture. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's speech is published.

Fitter Arbekov, builder Chernyavskiy, cosmodrome veteran Shumilin, secretary Kormovshchikova of the polyclinic's Komsomol organization, and others spoke at the meeting.

Comrade Gorbachev visited the memorials at the cosmodrome linked with the work of Sergey Pavlovich Korolev and Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin.

Together with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at the cosmodrome were: Comrade Zaykov, member of the Politburo and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Chebrikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the KBG; Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Minister of Defense; Comrade Maslyukov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Comrade Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Comrade Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee; Comrade Nazarbayev, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR; Comrade Auyelbekov, first secretary of the Kzyl-Orda Obkom; and several officials in charge of union ministries and departments.

New Space Equipment Displayed

LD142110 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was staying at the Baykonur space launch facility and in the city of Leninsk, Kazakhstan, on May 11-13.

During the visit Mikhail Gorbachev had a big number of meetings and conversations with scientists, specialists, workers, engineers and technicians, and residents of the city.

Mikhail Gorbachev saw samples of space equipment at the launch facility where work is in progress now for the blast-off of a new versatile booster rocket capable of putting into near-earth orbits re-usable orbiters and large-sized spacecraft used for scientific and national economic purposes, as well as modules for space stations to be used over long periods of time.

Mikhail Gorbachev had a meeting with members of work collectives of the Baykonur Cosmodrome and the city of Leninsk. His speech during the meeting will be published.

LIGACHEV, DOBRYNIN ADDRESS FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEETING

LD132234 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] A joint session of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet took place in the Kremlin today. The question of the efficiency of the Soviet Union's participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions was reviewed.

Comrade Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union; and Comrade Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities, took part in the work of the session.

Present at the session were Comrade Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers' State Foreign Economic Commission; Comrade Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union; Comrade Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities; Comrade Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and leaders of a number of ministries and departments.

The session was conducted by Comrade Ligachev. In his opening address Comrade Ligachev noted that the Soviet Union's participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions abroad, and equally, holding foreign exhibitions in the USSR, is becoming an increasingly notable phenomenon in our international links. Having set a course toward restructuring, the party intends to expand our participation in the international division of labor, in connection with which we are giving an important place to exhibitions in the country and abroad.

As was stressed in the CPSU Central Committee's appeal to the Soviet people in connection with the 70th anniversary of Great October, and in order to solve the economic and social tasks proposed by the 27th party congress, it is essential to initiate the underlying factors for growth. Exhibitions should vigorously assist in attaining the world's highest standards of efficiency, product quality, and labor productivity. The party has set a task -- which Comrade Gorbachev spoke about at the 27th party congress -- to implement a restructuing of foreign trade, and make exports and imports more effective.

As for exports, a substantial increase must be ensured in the share of finished products, first of all engineering products. This task does not find itself reflected in the manner due at Soviet exhibitions. The current procedure for preparing them and holding them has come into conflict with the new economic management conditions. This conflict must be done away with. The USSR Council of Ministers State Foreign Economic Commission should institute forward planning of exhibition work, involve itself in improving its normative base, and in solving other fundamental questions in conformity with the new conditions, whereby enterprises, associations, and ministries are directly involved in foreign economic links. Exhibitions must familiarize the public in foreign countries with the essence of our policy, which is aimed at ensuring the interests of working people, at the comprehensive satisfaction of their demands, and preserving peace and life on our planet.

Communications were read at the session by Comrade Pitovranov, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Comrade Markevich, first USSR deputy foreign trade minister; and Comrade Yefremov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, who analyzed practical questions of exhibition work in the conditions of the radical improvement of foreign economic activity.

Deputy Chervonenko, secretary of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities, delivered a report on the results of the joint deputies' preparatory group's familiarization with the organization of work on the Soviet Union's participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions abroad, and the holding of international and foreign exhibitions in the USSR. Attention was drawn to the fact that the staging of international exhibitions in the USSR do not always correspond to the main directions of world science and technology; the latest technological achievements and advanced experience of leading foreign firms in organizing production and raising output quality are often left unacknowledged. Clearer and more expressive exposure should be given at Soviet exhibitions abroad to the practical implementation of the party's policy aimed at the priority development of cooperation with socialist countries.

Participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions must be more actively used to display Soviet economic and technical assistance to the liberated countries in their socioeconomic development, training of national personnel, and in other spheres. Note was made of serious shortcomings with regard to the quality of exhibits on show at exhibitions and trade fairs, the display of commercial work at them, the technical provision for them, and the training of personnel appropriate to them.

Taking part in this discussion were deputies Gromova, Kuleshov, Laptev, Popov, and Ryabov.

Comrade Dobrynin spoke at the meeting. He stressed that exhibitions, if properly organized, could make a growing contribution to the process of humanizing international relations. Exhibitions and activities connected with them have a large potential for promoting mutual information, human contacts, and fruitful discussions. This serves to form trust in relations between countries and peoples, trust that is vitally necessary for developing new thinking in the approach to solving the most burning international issues of our time, including in trade and economic relations. The main thing now is that the Soviet Union's participation in exhibitions and fairs is raised to the level of the new demands formulated by the 27th CPSU Congress, and by the party Central Committee January 1987 Plenum.

Winding up the session, Comrade Ligachev stressed that there had been a vigorous and involved discussion of the question brought before it. The draft decision presented for review at the point session of the commissions is aimed at raising the efficiency of exhibition activity. Recommendations for the fuller use of exhibitions and trade fairs in the interests of accelerating scientific and technical progress are of fundamental significance. Cooperation within the framework of countries of the socialist community is, and will continue to be the core of our external economic ties, and it is essential that this should find itself duly reflected. Further measures should be taken to improve the informational content of Soviet displays, which would ensure that the foreign public is acquainted with our modern affairs and concerns. The time has come to think about holding a major international trade and industrial trade fair in the Soviet Union, on a regular basis, of the type of trade fairs and exhibitions of world renown.

Those who spoke, Comrade Ligachev noted, expressed many interesting thoughts. A number of constructive proposals and remarks are contained in material brought before the commission by USSR Supreme Soviet deputies and central economic bodies. All these proposals and remarks should be reviewed in a most careful manner by the appropriate ministries and departments, and the necessary measures taken upon them.

The session unanimously adopted the decision on the question discussed.

VOROTNIKOV ADDRESSES RSFSR CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

PM131011 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 19, May 87 (Signed to Press 29 Apr 87) p 3

[TASS report: "At Russia's Construction Sites"]

[Text] An all-Russia conference was held at the RSFSR Council of Ministers 25 April to discuss the tasks of RSFSR soviet and economic organs regarding the improvement of capital construction in light of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum decisions. [paragraph continues]

Taking part in the conference's work were leaders of USSR and RSFSR ministries and departments, local party and soviet organs, contracting and planning organizations, and construction industry and construction materials industry enterprises, and production front-rankers.

A report was delivered by V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

It was noted that capital construction has a decisive effect on the buildup of the republic's economic potential, the development of the social sphere, and the acceleration of scientific and technical progress.

A large capital construction program is being implemented in the RSFSR. Recently there has been a certain increase in the growth rate of the volume of work performed, labor productivity has increased, and some other technical and economic indicators have improved. Construction management is being restructured and new economic machinery is being introduced. Transition to normative schedules for project completion and stable contract prices has begun. Collective contracts and complete economic accountability are being introduced.

It was pointed out at the same time that restructuring in the sector is being implemented slowly. The plans for assimilation of state capital investments and commissioning of fixed assets are systematically unfulfilled. Progress is unsatisfactory at numerous important projects in machine building, the fuel and energy complex, ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, and a number of other sectors determining scientific and technical progress. The construction of agro-industrial complex enterprises and major land reclamation systems is lagging. There has been no substantial turn in the direction of the construction of social projects.

It was emphasized that the transfer to economic methods of economic management is not progressing fast enough in the sector. The dissipation of capital investment has not been eliminated, while the importance of the reconstruction and retooling of enterprises is being underestimated.

The quality of planning and construction work remains poor. Numerous problems concerning urban development and architecture and the social transformation of the countryside have not been resolved.

Inefficient use is made of the material base, and the sector's fixed production assets are being renewed only slowly. Inadequate attention is given to the quest for and utilization of internal reserves and to the satisfaction of the construction industry's requirements through savings of material and technical resources.

Particular attention was given to the need for preferential development of the construction materials industry, elimination of the serious lag in the retooling of enterprises, and expansion of the production of local construction materials.

It was pointed out that raising capital construction to a new industrial and organizational level will demand accelerated development of scientific and technical progress and concentration of the efforts by sector, academic, and VUZ science on the solution of key technical problems.

The creation of construction planning associations tasked with carrying out mass industrial construction of projects and handing them over on a "turnkey" basis, and the organization of engineering centers, intersector science and technology complexes, and science and production associations must become an important link in restructuring. [paragraph continues]

Further improvement is needed in work to develop a unified construction complex in the republic and enhance the role of the FSFSR Gosstroy.

Quite a few criticisms were voiced against the USSR construction ministries, which continue to underestimate the importance of the construction of projects linked with satisfying the population's needs.

Many local soviet organs still fail to make full use of the rights vested in them in coordinating and monitoring the activity of construction organizations and to make strict demands of them.

Ministries and departments and soviet and economic organs have been set the task of implementing additional measures for the fundamental restructuring of their work style and methods, expanding democratic principles, giving maximum support to working people's initiative and activeness, supplying them with the necessary conditions for labor, daily life, and rest, setting up stable labor collectives, strengthening discipline and responsibility for the end results of work, and ensuring the successful fulfillment of plans for 1987 and the 5-year plan as a whole.

The conference was addressed by Yu.P. Batalin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Taking part in the conference's work were A.G. Melnikov, chief of a CPSU Central Committee department; and senior officials from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, the Komsomol Central Committee, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

DOLGIKH, YELTSIN, YAKOVLEV AT RADIO DAY MEETING

LD071820 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] A festive meeting has taken place today in Moscow dedicated to Radio Day -- the professional festival of the workers of all branches of the communications sector. In the presidium were Comrades Dolgikh, Yeltsin, Yakovlev, Maslyukov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Pasternak, department chief of the CPSU Central Committee; the leaders of a number of ministries and departments, and scientists and representatives of the public of the capital. Kolesnikov, minister of the USSR electronics industry gave a report.

SOKOLOV, YELTSIN TAKE PART IN VICTORY DAY CEREMONY

LD092019 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0855 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Moscow 9 May (TASS) -- Today, on the holiday marking the victory day of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War the crowd is particularly large in the Aleksandrov Gardens around the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which is a place held sacred by all the people. A troop formation standing perfectly still by the Kremlin Wall falls under the shadow of the banners of combat units and formations that became famous in the battles against the fascist occupants.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, deputies of the USSR minister of defense and military leaders came to pay homage at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, to the bright memory of those who fought to the last drop of blood for honor, freedom, and independence of the homeland and who did not live to see the victory. Accompanied by the sound of solemn music, a wreath was laid at the tomb.

The following words are on the red ribbon: "To the unknown soldier from the servicemen of the USSR Armed Forces. 9 May 1987." The national anthem of the USSR played solemnly. In tight formation subdivisions of the troops of the Moscow garrison marched past the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier rendering honors to the fallen.

Wreaths from the Moscow Gorkom and Moscow Obkom, the Moscow Soviet and the Moscow Oblispolkom were also laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

B.N. Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom, Moscow Gorkom and obkom secretaries and bureau members, war and labor veterans, and representatives of the working people of Moscow and Moscow Oblast took part in the wreath-laying ceremony.

SOLOVYEV ATTENDS LENINGRAD BLOCKADE COMMEMORATION

LD091225 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] A solemn ceremony at the Leningrad Piskarevskoye Memorial has just finished. The banners of the Hero City of Leningrad, the decorated Leningrad Oblast, and military units that were distinguished in battles, were brought there. An honor guard stood motionless by the eternal flame. The Leningraders went past it bound in silence so as to pay their respects to the glorious memory of hundreds of thousands of defenders of the city who perished during the years of the blockade. War veterans, generals, and admirals, the leaders of party and soviet delegations and representatives of labor collectives gathered by the Monument of the Motherland. Wreaths were laid at the foot of the monument.

Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom, took part in the solemn ceremony at the Piskarevskoye Memorial. In an hour a triumphant march by all units of the garrison through the streets and squares of the city will begin. Now the heroes of the Ladoga route, former naval sailors and river workers, railway workers, and soldiers of the Soviet Army, who secured supplies from the hinterland to the blockaded city across the Ladoga, have assembled for a meeting in the village of Osinovets on the Road of Life.

Meets Leningrad Artists

PM121219 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 87 p 1

[LENTASS report: "Talks in the Smolnyy"]

[Text] The innovative revolutionary ideas of acceleration and restructuring advanced by the party are penetrating the public consciousness increasingly deeply and becoming a real creative force in the country's socioeconomic development on the threshold of Great October's 70th anniversary.

To vigorously promote the channeling of the political guidelines of the 27th CPSU Congress and the party Central Committee January (1987) Plenum toward political actions to restructure people's consciousness and to create an atmosphere of moral and ethical improvement in society -- this thought occupied the chief place during a meeting at the Smolnyy between Yu.F. Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Leningrad Obkom, and leading Leningrad literary and artistic figures and the leadership of creative unions.

After briefing the gathering on the main directions of the Leningrad party organization's activity in implementing economic and social transformations, Yu.F. Solovyev pointed out that the idea and purport of restructuring consist in realizing as much as possible the potential of each person and of society as a whole in the economy, in culture, and in the spiritual sphere.

The paramount importance of involving the creative potential, abilities, and talent of masters of culture in shaping objective public opinion around the processes occurring in society was emphasized.

Under the conditions of broadening democracy, openness, and cleansing criticism exceptional significance attaches to the spirit of literature and art directed toward shaping political culture and morality -- a spirit that has nothing in common with casting slurs, groundless carping, or faultfinding. A meaningful, sharply publicistic art work is called upon to fill the social initiative and independence of working people with lofty spiritual substance and specific ideas aimed at overcoming problems and difficulties in the name of the good of society.

Art that asserts true values and ideals, whatever events and facts it addresses, is always directed toward the future, conveys constructive ideas, strengthens the people's spirit, and enriches their social and moral experience. Confidence was expressed that these fundamental qualities, which are invariably inherent in the best works of Leningrad masters of culture, will continue to determine the core direction of the development of literature and art in Leningrad.

The participants in the meeting shared their creative plans and voiced suggestions and wishes aimed at improving the activities of artistic organizations.

Yu.F. Solovyev answered numerous questions from those present at the talks.

YELTSIN ANSWERS MUSCOVITES ON CITY DEVELOPMENT

PM141157 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 May 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Meeting With Muscovites"]

[Text] Leaders of the Moscow Gorkom and Moscow Gorispolkom yesterday met with a group of Muscovites who had gathered first on 50-letiye Okryabrya Square and then at the Moscow Gorispolkom. B.N. Yeltsin, first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom, answered numerous questions from those assembled.

Expressing their support for the 27th party congress' course toward restructuring, the speakers submitted proposals for more resolute actions to implement restructuring, overcome bureaucracy and the inhibition mechanism that has developed in Moscow in the past, and accelerate the implementation of the sociocultural and economic policy.

Participants in the meeting spoke with great concern about the need to adopt a more careful attitude to the capital's architectural, cultural, and historical monuments. The need was stressed for increased openness regarding urban development decisions that are adopted, including work connected with the construction of the Victory Memorial. Many other highly topical and acute questions were also discussed.

Participants expressed a desire to play an active part in the transformations being implemented in Moscow. Proposals were submitted relating to the need for comprehensive coverage in the news media of work to protect and restore the architectural face of the capital and about the possibility for a broader discussion of alternative solutions to urban development decisions prior to their adoption. The past practice of thoughtless demolition of buildings representing an invaluable heritage of the historic past was condemned.

Addressing the meeting, B.N. Yeltsin familiarized the participants with the progress of restructuring in the city and noted shortcomings in this work.

Those present were briefed on decisions that have been adopted or are being elaborated at the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on key questions of Moscow's socioeconomic development and measures implemented by the Moscow Gorkom and the gorispolkom.

B.N. Yeltsin called for the active participation of all Muscovites in the capital's sociopolitical life and in instilling in all people a sense of patriotism and responsibility for the transformations being implemented.

Those assembled unanimously assured the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Comrade M.S. Gorbachev of their support for the course steered by the party toward restructuring, the democratization of society, and the expansion of openness. They pledged their active participation in these transformations and in the resolute struggle against the opponents of restructuring whose resistance has by no means been overcome.

YELTSIN, VORONOV, SHALAYEV ATTEND PARADE

PM141503 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 May 87 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Brass Band Parade"]

[Excerpt] A special and unique tone of life in the Soviet capital on the day of the great victory was set by the mellifluous sounds of almost 100 musical collectives. On 9 May Muscovites greeted the participants in the all-union brass band festival -- envoys from all the union republics and six fraternal socialist countries -- in streets and squares, parks, and concert halls.

The musicians marched from the Belorussia Station along Gorkiy Street to 50th Anniversary of October Square in a grand parade. Then, by the walls of the ancient Kremlin, a rally was held in which thousands of the city's inhabitants participated.

The rally was attended by B.N. Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom; Yu.P. Voronov, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Culture Department; S.A. Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU, and representatives of party, soviet, and social organizations.

USSR minister of culture, V.G. Zakharov spoke stressing that both during the war years and in peacetime brass band music has been and remains at its combat post. It fosters a strength of spirit and patriotism in people, teaches them to love life and defend it, and urges them to creative labor. [passage omitted]

YELTSIN TALKS WITH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

LD131131 Moscow TASS in English 1122 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- Boris Yeltsin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU City Committee, met and talked for more than two hours last week with members of the historical-patriotic association "Memory", the newspaper MOSCOW NEWS said today. One of the important subjects of the meeting was the protection of monuments of architecture. A total of 9,500 buildings have been taken under state protection in Moscow, more than a thousand of them are in urgent need of restoration. Over the five-year period (1986-1990), the volume of restoration work will double.

The association "Memory" was set up on the initiative of enthusiasts and is notable for sharp contracts, the MOSCOW NEWS points out. On the one hand they call for the preservation of ancient monuments and protection of nature, but on the other hand inventions are spread to the effect that there is some "organisation" plotting to destroy true Russian culture and "Americanize" the Soviet society.

The conversation was a spontaneous one. At six o'clock p.m. on that day, nearly 400 persons came together downtown Moscow and expressed the wish to meet with Boris Yeltsin. They were invited to the Moscow Soviet of People's Deputies. When Boris Yeltsin appeared in the hall the audience greeted him with applause. Yet, the newspaper said, Boris Yeltsin stopped them and asked "You ask me for a meeting. I have come. What are your questions?"

When the question cropped up of building a monument to the Soviet people's victory on Poklonnaya Hill, Yeltsin said that the posing of this and other questions is well-founded and people who pose them are motivated by the sentiments of patriotism, love of the homeland. Yet they are not always right. Some people claim, in particular, that the work to erect the monument, whose project was turned down, is continuing. This is not true. Boris Yeltsin reaffirmed that it had been decided to end all work and take away tower cranes from the construction site. We are looking forward to new interesting projects which will be brought up for nationwide discussion, he said.

Boris Yeltsin admitted that there is no public opinion institute in Moscow and no organized system of polling the population. He stressed that such a system is necessary. Yet, he said, the links of the city authorities with the masses are improving. Thus, for example, each time before an important decision is taken, the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Soviet polls the population through the newspaper MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA. For that matter, those present at the meeting, every inhabitant of the capital, have an opportunity to put forward his or her proposals on a broad range of issues.

Answering questions on the course of reorganisation, Boris Yeltsin said that the bureaucratic machinery which formed during the stagnation period is hampering reorganisation to this day. Yet, he stressed, the claim that the Moscow CPSU City Committee remains staffed with old cares is untrue. Last year it was renewed by 40 per cent. The staff has been reduced by 28 members, among them one secretary of the city committee.

YAKOVLEV, OTHERS PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

LD061715 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] Participants in the annual conference of scientists of the schools of higher education have been examining the issue of improving the efficiency of research conducted in the country's higher education establishments. Having noted a number of spectacular achievements of the higher education establishments in various fields of the natural and technical sciences, the speakers focused on an analysis of what still hinders the higher education establishment science in resolving topical national economy tasks. It was stressed that the rate of implementation in production of the results of research conducted within higher education establishments is still very low. The conference voiced an appeal for the creation of the most favorable conditions possible for developing the creative potential of students to make the higher education establishment graduates not just receptacles of certain amounts of knowledge, but creative people capable of advancing science further.

In an interview with a TASS correspondent, Comrade Yagodin, USSR minister of higher and secondary specialized education, said that the decision on principle guidelines for restructuring the country's higher and secondary specialized education adopted recently by the CPSU Central Committee give the higher education establishments significantly more rights and independence. But demands are also going to be significantly higher, in both the quality of the specialists' training, and the quality of the higher education establishment science. The restructuring in the activities of the higher school should be implemented rapidly, without waiting for instructions from above. It is time that the higher education establishments leaders learn not to wait for instructions whatever is the case.

The conference also dwelt on the need to rejuvenate the leading scientific contingent of schools of higher learning. The USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education has approved the recent proposals on introducing age ceilings for the rectors, prorectors, deans, and heads of departments. That limit applies to conducting administrative duties, and not scientific or teaching work.

Taking part in the work of the conference was Comrade Yakovlev, candidate member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. [Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 7 May 87 Second Edition carries a similar report which lists the following participants, in addition to Yakovlev, at the Moscow meeting: "B.L. Tolstyich, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, and V.A. Grigoryev, A.G. Melnikov, and V.S. Pasternak, chiefs of CPSU Central Committee departments.

LUKYANOV PRESENT AT ARBITRATION BOARD MEETING

PM061009 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "State Arbitration Board's Tasks"]

[Text] An enlarged session of the USSR State Arbitration Board Collegium in which the chief state arbitrators of the union and autonomous republics, krays, oblasts, cities took part was held 28 April to discuss the results of State Arbitration Board organs' work in 1986 and the tasks stemming from the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and the 12 February 1987 CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Further Improving the Activity of State Arbitration Board Organs and Enhancing Their Role in Strengthening Legality and Contractual Discipline in the National Economy."

The report and speeches noted that in a situation where the party and the state are taking resolute measures to overcome phenomena of stagnation, remove braking mechanisms, and create reliable, effective guarantees of the acceleration of society's socioeconomic development, a most important task of State Arbitration Board organs in conditions of restructuring is to increase their influence on strengthening legality and plan and contractual discipline in the national economy. Particular attention was drawn to the need to strictly ensure protection of enterprises' rights and legally protected interests in conditions of full economic accountability and self-financing and the intensification of economic methods of administration and management.

The decision adopted by the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers give State Arbitration Board organs additional powers in combating economic crimes and enhance their legal status.

The expanded power of State Arbitration Board organs require that the necessary measures be adopted to increase the responsibility of cadres in these organs for observing legality in their activity, increasing the effectiveness of preventive work in strengthening contractual discipline, and improving the coordination of that work with other law enforcement and control organs. State Arbitration Boards' ties with enterprise labor collectives in the struggle for the unconditional fulfillment of pledges and in the struggle for the unconditional fulfillment of pledges and the increased responsibility of officials for any infringements should be expanded.

A.I. Lukyanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, G.M. Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, N.I. Savinkin, chief of a CPSU Central Committee Department, and the leaders of law enforcement organs took part in the collegium's work.

PRESIDIUM APPOINTS NEW UZBEK GOSPLAN CHAIRMAN

LD111738 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 30 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Decree of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the appointment of Comrade I. Iskanderov as deputy chairman Usbek SSR Council of Ministers and as chairman of the Uzbek SSR Gosplan.

The Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees:

To appoint Comrade Ibragimzhan Iskanderov as deputy chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers and as chairman of the Uzbek SSR Gosplan.

[Signed] R. Nishanov, chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium,

Sh. Mirsaidov, member of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet of Presidium

Tashkent, 29 April 1987

PAPER CITES LETTER ON JEWS' REASONS FOR EMIGRATION

PM121559 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 19 10 May 87 p 7

[Open letter: "Let Us Live As We Choose. Soviet Citizens of Jewish Nationality Address U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz" -- first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] In its last issue "MOSCOW NEWS" published a letter from Academician V. Goldanskzy on the so-called "question regarding Jewish emigration from the USSR". The editorial board has received a copy to another message addressed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, mailed on the eve of his USSR visit.

The message is as follows.

Dear Mr. Shultz,

The immediate reason for writing this letter is the reports saying that the American delegation, which you are heading, is bringing to Moscow kosher food and is going to meet with refuseniks. In short, it wants to continue the game concerning the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union, which has been going on for 15 years now.

We want to avail ourselves of this occasion to state the view on this game. The overwhelming majority of Soviet Jews are Soviet patriots and do not want to go anywhere, and it is with them that the Westerners, who declare that they are so concerned about the fate of Soviet Jews, usually do not meet or take their opinion into account.

Believe us, Mr Shultz, we know better the Soviet Jews' frame of mind than that group of people who wish to emigrate and with whom your delegation, just like many others, are planning to meet. We also know that the rumours that there are hundreds of thousands of Jews who want to leave the USSR are an obvious lie.

We want to express our opinion on what stands, as we see it, behind this lie and behind the many-year-long campaign about Jewish emigration from the USSR, the opinion on the persecution of Jews in our country. Some aspects of this campaign are obvious. Attempts are being made to use speculations about the "Jewish question" in the USSR simply to slander our country, make people forget that if it were not for the heroic efforts of our people, who bore the brunt of the war against nazism, no Jews would be left in Europe. The zionist organizations, especially those of American Jews, have long been trying to settle Israel with Jews from the USSR, the more so, as American Jews do not strive to go there. In fact, the big number of Jews, emigrating of late from our country, want to go not to Israel, but to other countries. But the campaign continues and gains momentum.

We don't want to apply the logic of "you are a fool yourself" and reply to accusations of the persecution of Jews in the USSR by references to racism regarding the blacks and Spanish-speaking Americans, and even to antisemitism in the USA. But the very existence of such phenomena means that those in America must realize well the ticklish nature of the nationalities problem, that the greatest tact is needed in this question, and that they can't refer to the ignorance of the fact that the political game around this problem may lead to its aggravation.

Speculations concerning the question on Jewish emigration objectively contribute to the complication of the situation of Soviet Jews. It must be put bluntly: we have formed a definite opinion that these speculations are directed at it. There is a striving if not to make, at least to depict us as citizens of special grade, whose status regarding emigration, departure and citizenship differs from Soviet people of other nationalities. In other words, to sow the seeds of suspicion regarding the patriotism of Soviet Jews. We'll put it more frankly: we come to suspect more and more that the game around the question on Jewish emigration is aimed at whipping up antisemitic sentiments.

Those who play this game are very well informed that antisemitism was state policy in tsarist Russia and struck deep roots in the minds of people. The Revolution put an end to pogroms and antisemitism became punishable by law. Besides, the process of uprooting antisemitic sentiments began.

Now attempts are being made abroad at reversing the whole matter by driving Soviet Jews into new, invisible boundaries of the Pale of Settlement -- in the eyes of their colleagues, neighbours and friends.

We are far from accusing all those people in the West, who stand for increasing Jewish emigration from the USSR, of such schemes. We know that most of these people, apparently, proceed from the best intentions. But as they say, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Do they realize what they objectively lead it to? Perhaps, not. But if they don't understand, then why do they address us with their demands and offers of services? And to those in zionist as well as government circles of the USA and some other Western countries, who realize this we have to state: this is a dirty and amoral game, not worthy of honest and civilized people.

Let those few thousand jews, who have decided to emigrate, go wherever they want -- to Israel or rather to some other place in the hope of a better life. But we demand an end to the political game around Jewish emigration from the USSR and let the overwhelming majority of Soviet Jews who like their country and feel proud of it, strive to place all their efforts, skill and talents at the service of those remarkable processes of the perestroika and renovation taking place in it, to live and work quietly without fearing misinformation from the West, to bring up their children and grandchildren. Don't try to "make us happy" against our will. We shall ensure our own happy life if we are not prevented from doing so.

We assure you, Mr Shultz, of our personal respect:

I. Zilbershteyn member of the Presidium of the Soviet Culture Fund, USSR State Prize winner, Doctor of Science (Arts);
M. Kaps, Chairman of the Krasyanya Armiya (Red Army) collective farm, Vitebsk Region, deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet, Hero of Socialist Labour;
B. Vaynshteyn Academicians, director of the Institute of Crystallography of the USSR Academy of Sciences;
B. Izakov, publicist, translator of American literature;
D. Dragunskiy, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, Colonel-General;
A. Vergelis, Editor-in-Chief, magazine Sovietish Heimland, a poet;
L. Shapiro, deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet;
A. Shayevich, the chief rabbi of the Moscow Choral synagogue;
S. Zivs, professor, Doctor of Science (Law), Honoured Science Worker of the Russian federation.

'RADICAL CHANGES' STILL NEEDED IN GOSSNAB SYSTEM

PM131605 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 8 May 87 p 2

[Report by L. Tsvetkov, deputy editor for economics and propaganda: "Partners in Economic Accountability"; subtitled "Observations on a USSR Gossnab Party-Economic Aktiv Meeting"]

[Text] Last year, for the first time in a long period, production growth outstripped the rate of accumulation of material stocks. This broke the tendency that had led to the immobilization of an increasing proportion of resources and a deceleration in economic circulation. It is the result of the efforts of many labor collectives and management organs. It is the result of an improvement in work, notably by the state system of material and technical supply.

The above is, of course, by no means the only achievement that the personnel of the USSR Gossnab and its subdivisions can claim to their credit. Moves toward the practical resolution of many problems that have long troubled economic managers have been outlined and are being implemented.

But we will not pass off our wishes as reality by claiming that radical changes have already taken place. This is not the cause. The fundamental cause lies with the cadres. Although the Gossnab system has started to study the political, professional, and moral qualities of personnel more thoroughly in the course of selection and placement and to make stricter demands of them, the new orientation toward the creation of a waste-free mechanism in supply, a broadening of wholesale trade and direct ties, and resource-saving as a basic source for meeting growing requirements is still proving slow to catch on. This is why, in checking the state of affairs in their area against the demands of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum, the leaders of union and republic committees, territorial and central main administrations, and the Gossnab party-economic aktiv had to admit that restructuring is progressing too slowly. The unsatisfactory work in the first quarter illustrates this: In the supply system it is still superficial rather than underlying reserves that have been exploited, and old attitudes remain the determining factors.

According to USSR Central Statistical Administration data, last year not one national economic complex fulfilled the plan for commissioning fixed capital. The statistics show tardy and incomplete supply of equipment as one cause of this. Gossnab's acquisition organizations must be held primarily responsible for this.

But the latter have their own statistics, from which it emerges that practically all projects coming up for completion, with a few exceptions, were supplied with full sets of equipment. What is going on here? Let us take a specific example -- Muscovite Yu. Glinin wrote to the editors about it. Gossnab equipment procurement workers refused to accept nearly half the required equipment for last year's deliveries to the Bryansk Phosphates Plant sites. On completely "legitimate" grounds -- several departmental decisions give them this right. This is what guided the very Soyuzglavkhimkomplekt [Gossnab Chemical, Pulp and Paper, and Pharmaceutical Industry Enterprises Main Administration] whose experience was once so widely acclaimed and whose sphere of activity -- the timber and chemicals complex -- is now worst of all in terms of fulfilling construction targets. And yet directive organs' resolutions have pointed out to main acquisition administrations at least three times their responsibility for supplying projects with all types of equipment and not a selection.

Supply deficiencies, like long-range guns, hit their targets far ahead. So frequently there is no one to answer for them. As in the case of the Bryansk Phosphates Plant. A. Kudryavtsev, then chief of Soyuzglavkhimkomplekt, has now retired. A. Kozhevnikov, his obliging partner from the Ministry of Mineral Fertilizer Production who agreed to the supply half-complete consignments of equipment, has long been in another post.

How necessary it is today for production workers to have authoritative and reliable commitment from suppliers, which carry equal weight regardless of cadre reassignments! This thought was expressed distinctly at the party-economic aktiv meeting. It was closely bound up with another thought -- everyone's personal initiative and the quest for nonstandard solutions.

Without this it is impossible to make further progress in the sphere of material and technical supply. Along with the reader we are still just waiting for the time when the Law on Enterprises comes into force and the documents on the new job descriptions for higher managerial bodies are ratified. But the personnel of these bodies, including Gossnab, are not privileged to be able to wait. Right now, at this very hour on this very day, the 1988 production program is being coordinated with the supply plan. And this is being done under the new management conditions, as though all the fundamental documents had been ratified.

What does it mean -- under the new conditions? They are not only nominally new. They are basically different. USSR Gossnab Chairman L. Voronin illustrated this in the following situation. If enterprise production capacities are approximately one-half loaded with state orders, then it is essential to have a clear idea right now as to how the resources will be supplied for the remainder of the orders, placed by enterprises independently under self-generated contracts. Here old methods, where everything is allocated from above, are patently unsuitable. It emerges that the territorial supply organs need to be granted maximum independence. But how can this be achieved practically if the work scheme elaborated over many years does not envisage such autonomy?

It is no coincidence, it seems, that during the talk at the party-economic aktiv nostalgia was expressed for the instructions no longer being handed down ahead of time for implementation.

"In the past we used to receive a schedule for work on the following year's plan as early as February-March, but where is it now?" The complaint came from V. Demyanenko, chief of Soyuzglavelektro [Gossnab Electrical Engineering Production Supply and Sales Main Administration], and it was echoed in several other speeches. All this seems valid. It is one thing to talk, but well-considered, legalized work procedures are also necessary. On the other hand, is it really true that until now supply was infallible even though there was no shortage of instructions? On the contrary, procedures were registered, so that in time they were transformed into impassable bureaucratic jungles.

The editorial mailbag in recent weeks has all been about questions of supplying equipment in full. Hapless clients have simply been driven from office to office in pursuit of innumerable quantities of documents. In response to a newspaper enquiry, USSR Gossnab collegium member A. Selivanov reported that the list of required documentation has been considerably reduced. But the complaints are still coming. It turns out that some main administrations are still demanding the same quantity of papers.

There is no end of ways to avoid changing anything. The most reliable is to replace one bureaucratic device with another. The Gossnab communists spoke out against his unacceptable practice. Just complaints were made against services and subdivisions that are failing to curb chicanery at its roots. The department's lawyers must be the first to accept this reproach. But they are not the only ones. Administrations such as material and technical supply improvements, economics, and planning and finance also came in for criticism. It is a long time since management methods were reviewed in the USSR Gossnab system. They retain the mark of an expensive [zatratnyy], narrowly departmental mechanism and fetter the initiative of enterprises and their territorial organs. Good experience is available if the spheres of resource-saving and of collecting and reprocessing secondary raw materials on cooperative principles, but it is poorly disseminated. These complaints also apply fully to science in the department. Particularly to the Scientific Research Institute for Material and Technical Supply, whose director has had to be replaced. What the party-economic aktiv asked of its scientists is not to try to get by with cosmetic repair of the traditional means of supply but to be navigators blazing the trial into the future.

The contours of the future are being traced more and more clearly. What must the new organization of material and technical supply be like -- that was the question examined recently by the CPSU by the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. A mobile, statewide system must be created with such distinguishing features as developed wholesale trade and incomparably wider direct links between consumers and procedures. With these tasks in mind an alteration in the USSR Gossnab's structure is being contemplated. One of the main ideas behind this is to escape from the subdivisions' narrow "product" specialization and create new ones capable of supplying the requirements of large-scale national economic complexes. And in terms of work style to escape from the imposition of modes of supply that are unsuitable and inconvenient for enterprises and introduce new ones based on an economically accountable partnership.

ITALIAN PAPER CITES SOVIET ECONOMISTS ON REFORM

PM141034 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 3 May 87 p 63-66

[Massimo Loche article: "The Utopian Hill"]

[Excerpt] Nobody would suspect that a drab outlying suburb of Moscow at the end of the interminable Prospect Profsoyuzov is the location of one of the strongest concentrations of the Soviet Union's intelligentsia. These new but already rather dilapidated buildings distinguished from the uniform apartment blocks around them only by a discreet plaque on the door, house the Academy of Sciences' Institutes of Economics and of Economics and Mathematics, as well as that dealing with the "world socialist system."

Is it a coincidence that during the Brezhnev years scholars were concentrated here, far from the luxurious downtown buildings where the Soviet Government is housed amid gilt and stucco? Perhaps so, and if we were to pose this question we would receive a reasonable and cogent explanation. However, it seems legitimate to suspect that this anonymous location on a small hill, its roads awash with muddy slugh, reflects the level of esteem then accorded by the Kremlin to economists, sociologists -- in fact all those dealing with the USSR's social development. [paragraph continues]

The most anonymous of the buildings is in fact that which houses the World Socialist System Institute: Its director, Oleg Bogomolov, a quietly spoken scholar with a sense of humor, has protected young researchers who were able to compare other experiences with a system as ossified as it was untouchable, by definition and tradition. "For at least 2 decades," Bogomolov said, "many Soviet economists proposed new paths for our social development but found no support. But now the theoretical resources created in the past at last have an outlet in practice."

The day of glory has arrived: It is from this hill that the combination of ideas and blueprints behind Mikhail Gorbachev's plan (or utopia?) have come.

Abel Aganbegyan was more explicit: "The ideas for major changes have existed for some time, but were not shared by the previous leadership, which still spoke in terms of enhancements, improvements, and evolution when real conditions demanded a radical change of course, revolutionary changes." For many years Professor Aganbegyan was relegated to Novosibirsk, to the Siberian section of the Academy of Sciences. Now Aganbegyan's many jobs include that of worldwide propagandist and traveling salesman for the restructuring policy. However, he spends most of his time with his paperwork in a dacha just outside Moscow where, it is said, Gorbachev has placed him in virtual isolation and from which he emerges to take his plans an ideas to the Kremlin.

Let us examine these ideas. The arguments put by Abel Aganbegyan; by Oleg Bogomolov; by the animated and athletic director of the Economics Institute, Leonid Abalkin and by his deputy, the rotund and reserved Valentin Kashin all contain terms until recently considered subversive -- autonomy, self-financing, self-managment, self-government, competition, a new prices system, commerce, market, joint venture, the end of the foreign trade monopoly, the convertibility of the ruble, and international competitiveness, not to mention, computers, electronics, lasers, robotics....

"The general idea," Professor Aganbegyan said, "is to replace administrative with economic methods. Enterprises' lives will be determined no longer by instructions and detailed guidelines dictated from the top but by their order books, prices, credit, and incentives." The ultimate aim is to "eliminate the producer's dictatorship over the consumer." The means to this end are a new prices system not dictated from the top, a real banking and credit system, and direct wholesale trade between enterprises.

When discussing these matters, whether with enthusiasm, calm wisdom, or humor, Gorbachev supporters seem to be describing a future paradise. Has not all this always worked in the West? Does "eliminating the producer's dictatorship over the consumer" not mean asserting the market's priority over planning, that of society over the state?

Everyone's dream, the final aim, is "to eliminate shortages," that is, the phenomenon whereby consumer citizens are constantly standing in lines for goods in short supply, but also the phenomenon whereby factory managers in what is, after all, the world's second industrial power, have to shut down machinerey because of the absence of an essential spare part, while in another part of the vast Soviet territory dozens of these very spare parts lie unused. This malfunctioning is the result of a centralized supply system which according to Professor Kashin accounts for R460 billion out of a total GNP of R590 billion. "It is," Valentin Kashin said, "a matter of mobilizing this huge accumulation of goods; we will start by permitting wholesale trade between enterprises in industrial fastenings." What are they? "Nuts and bolts."

Enterprise autonomy, direct dealings between enterprises: Will all this not create competition? "We do not like the word," Professor Kashin replied, "but socialism needs competition to enhance and improve quality." In other words, the aim is to put an end to the "single great enterprise of the socialist economy." "That is Lenin's definition," Kashin said, smiling, "but Lenin was a great dialectician and also said that the socialist state can result from the network of production cooperatives. In the present situation we cannot develop the economy without enterprise autonomy." In other words, Lenin said all kinds of things, but now we are concentrating on the essence.

Everyone is sure, however, that it is not solely a matter of economics. "This reform," Leonid Abolkin said, "unlike that of the sixties, is not confined to the introduction of a few more detailed guidelines, but extends to the underlying strata of the economy, not only giving rise to a private or cooperative sector but altering the function of state ownership."

This brings us to the issue of self-management and self-government. Having cited some figures showing a sharp acceleration in some sectors of agriculture or, for instance, on the Belorussian railroads, where the reforms have been implemented more extensively and consistently, Abel Aganbegyan said. "Backtracking is still possible because this acceleration has been generated principally by temporary factors -- greater order and discipline." Indeed, the restructuring policy greaterly resembles the famous (and popular) ukase on vodka: economic measures (the price of vodka was doubled) plus strict supervision and rigid repression. But discipline, order, and authority are not enough. "At one time not only the directives but the managers too used to come from the top," Aganbegyan said: "Now, in a system based of autonomy, obviously directors must be elected by labor collectives." In other words, economists seem to regard the development of democracy, not only in the factories but throughout society, as the basis for economic development. Did Gorbachev not say that "democracy is the soul of the restructuring policy"?

If you seek confirmation of the impression that in fact not much has actually been done you may hear the following reply, as I did from Oleg Bogomolov: "The impression is partly correct. For the time being we are witnessing the adoption of political stances more than the solution of problems." The professor did not rule out the possibility that "the restructuring policy could, at least initially, be accompanied by a deterioration of the population's living standards." "We are just at the start of the road, the first steps," Aganbegyan confirmed. [passage omitted]

MEDIA COVERS 9-14 MAY AGRICULTURAL WORK

LD150222 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural development in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, for 9 May. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

Aleksandr Ruvinskiy reports on agro-industrial news: In the Maritime Kray the sowing of rice has started. This crop is also being sown on the fields of Kuban, toward the south of the Ukraine and in Uzbekistan. In Belorussia, potato is being planted. Rural workers in Smolensk Oblast have started sowing flax. Reports are coming in from southern regions that the sowing of certain crops is drawing to a close. In Stavropol Oblast, for example, the sowing of sugar beet has been fully completed. In Georgia, sunflower has been planted. Belated spring has had its effect also on livestock farming. Pastures are covered with grass later "almost everywhere". Animals, therefore, will be let out onto the pastures "somewhat later than usual." The fodder crops sown last autumn have proved to be of great help to farmers. They are growing fast and contain "a considerable amount of protein" -- rape, for example. Today reports have arrived from the state agro-industrial committee on the results of livestock farming over the past 4 months. The purchasing of livestock and poultry have risen by 11 percent in comparison with the same period last year. The pace was the highest in this industry in April since the start of the year. Only Moldavia, Armenia, and Estonia have delivered somewhat less meat to the state than in the first 4 months last year. Dairies are also doing rather well: here there is "a noticeable growth" in all republics apart from Tadzhikistan. (0100)

Rice growers in the Maritime Kray's Khankayskaya Valley are sowing by new methods, without the traditional banks [valiki] dividing up the rice fields and impeding the movement of sowing machinery; The productivity of this machinery has risen by almost one-quarter thanks to this rice model, as Far Eastern scientists call it, which has been applied to 1,500 hectares so far. The outlook is for the majority of rice farms in the kray to go over to this method in the future. (0100)

Aleksandr Ruvinskiy reports on progress in the fields: "On average the farmers sowed around 2 million hectares per day this week. On the whole, about one-quarter of areas with spring crops had been sown. But last night and yesterday, rather heavy rains came to the center of the country and the weather has turned colder. This will evidently slow the pace yet again." (0700)

Farmers in Lipetsk Oblast marked today's festive day with completing the sowing of early cereal crops, sugar beet and rape. (1400)

10 May

Orel Oblast farmers have begun mass sowing of sugar beet with 325 automated teams and sections out in the fields. All work on the 60,000 hectare area under sugar beet will be carried out by machinery. Cereals are being sown in Chita Oblast. Agricultural workers here must sow grain crops on almost 1.5 million hectares over the coming 2 weeks. (0000)

The first sowing units have gone out into the fields of Udmurtiya where spring crops are to occupy over 740,000 hectares. (0200)

Mass sowing of sugar beet is underway in Penza Oblast, where about 60,000 hectares have been given over to this crop. (0400)

Field work has been delayed by a protracted spell of cold weather in Orenburg Oblast, giving rise to "substantial modifications in the grain producers' original plans." (0600)

In Alma-Ata Oblast the Bayseit irrigating system has started working in the fields. It will yield moisture for 3,000 hectares of the semidesert zone, but in the future the area of artificially irrigated soil will be extended up to 100,000 hectares. (0800)

The sowing of early cereals has been completed in Kaliningrad Oblast, even though sowing began almost a month later than usual because of the cold weather. (1800)

In Kurgan Oblast, sowing units came out on the wheat fields only on Sunday because of the delayed spring. Farmers are placing the main grain culture primarily on seed breeding plots. This year kolkhozes and sovkhozes are separating seed production from the production of cash grain. Kurgan farmers intend to keep to a tight schedule despite the fact that nearly 200,000 hectares of arable land are still submerged by spring waters. (2130)

11 May

Potato planting has begun in Ryazan Oblast where 87,000 hectares on kolkhozes and sovkhozes are occupied by this product; 1,600 planters are to be used. Innovators at the Frunze seed producton station in Kirgizia have improved the technological process of clearning lucerne seeds. The equipment remains the same but productivity has almost doubled for the same power expenditure and the number of workers has decreased by more than one third. Manual labor is no longer needed (0000)

Selective moisture conservation is underway in the southern and eastern rayons of the Tselinograd Oblast. Grain crops are to be sown on almost 3 million hectares. (0204)

Mass grain sowing has begun in the Mari non-Chernozem Zone where wheat, rye, and barley are to be sown on an area of 330,000 hectares. Work has been delayed by poor weather. (0200)

Mechanized workers have commenced the sowing of grain crops and annual fodder crops in Kurgan Oblast. Sowing of the basic food crop, wheat, is underway on cleared and prepared areas to obtain high-quality seed grain. (0800)

Belgorod Oblast has started mass corn sowing. The crop will cover a total area of more than 250,000 hectares. (1100)

Correspondent Yevgeniy Ivanovich reports on the situation in the fields: virtually in all parts of the country spring field work is being carried out 2 and 3 weeks late: in individual rayons considerable areas of winter crops will have to be resown. The sowing of spring crops is now being conducted at an accelerated pace. In the south, meaning the Krasnodar Kray, the Stavropol Kray, and the south of the Ukraine, the sowing of spring grain crops has already been completed, and the sowing of sunflower and sugar beet is now being carried out there. Sowing work is being carried out in all republics, all oblasts, rayons, and in all kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The delay that took place in the initial stages is now being compensated for to some extent by the accelerated tempo of the work.

The agricultural workers have made very thorough preparations. (0945)

12 May

Combine harvesters have moved into the fields of southern Uzbekistan 1 week earlier than last year. Selective mowing of winter barley begins today. Experts expect a good harvest. The barley is mixed with corn to increase the efficiency of the fields. Potato planting is underway in Gorkiy Oblast with 2,000 planters in operation. One in five of these is high speed. The Gachenskiy variety is the main type, although many farms preferred new varieties. (0400)

Sowing equipment has gone out into the rice fields of the Kuban. Around two-thirds of the rice of the RSFSR is produced in the Krasnodar Kray. Last year, the Kuban had a record rice harvest -- more than 52 quintals from each of the more than 150,000 hectares. This year, the rain has hampered sowing, and if the weather does not rapidly improve, then the rice growers will resort to aerial sowing. This method has already been widely used in Temryuk Rayon. (0700)

The sowing of corn, the Far East's main fodder crop, has begun in the Maritime Kray. (1100)

The harvest has started in the steppe regions of Azerbaijan. Hundreds of mechanized contracting fodder laying-in teams today started hay cutting. In these areas, special attention is paid to lucerne and its mixture with grass family. Overall in the republic, crops occupy about 250,000 hectares. According to specialists. 150-2000 quintals of hay from each hectare will be recekved by the harvest. (1230)

Uzbek farmers are cutting barley selectively; in Saravov Oblast wheat is being sown on about 900,000 hectares; Belorussians are planting potatoes. (1430, Moscow Television Service in Russian)

The sowing season is gaining pace in Kazakhstan. In recent days, sunny weather has been established on the expanse of the steppes and this has enabled many farms to begin field work again, which was interrupted by severe bad weather. The republican statistical department has reported that to date 2.7 million hectares have been sown with grain. All Kazakhstan oblasts are now working in the fields. Any day now mass sowing will begin on the virgin lands of the republic. In the present spring the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Kazakhstan are to sow grain over more than 33 million hectares. (1500)

About 40 units of wide-span frigat installations, are now watering 2,500 hectares of an area sown with winter cereal crops and perennial grasses in the Kerbulak Rayon, Kazakhstan. An underground lake, which was discovered by a hydrogeological expedition, has made it possible to turn the locality known as the Valley of Dry Winds into a zone of green fields. Ten fresh water deposits were found in the Taldy-Kurgan Oblast. They made it possible to set up several irrigation zones of total area of 12,000 hectares. (2130)

13 May

Tula agricultural workers have begun mass potato planting. The crop this year is to occupy 33,200 hectares. One-third of this area will be cultivated with industrial technology. Tula Oblast has promised the state 266,000 metric tons of potatoes. (0204)

Since the start of the sowing campaign, some 18 million hectares have been sown to spring crops in the RSFSR. (0600)

Mass sowing of grain crops began in Chelyabinsk Oblast today. Because of the late start to spring the time alloted for sowing has been reduced by half. (0800)

News of Agro-industrial Complex

Over the past week, the weather made it possible to accelerate the spring field work significantly. In the country as a whole, almost 44 million hectares -- 30 percent of the plan target -- are occupied with spring crops. The sowing of early grain crops is being conducted at the moment by the machine-operators of Estonia, non-Chernozeh Zone of the RSFSR, the Volga valley, Urals. And in Moldavia, in the Ukraine, in other union republics, as well as in the south of the Russian Federation, the sowing of early crops has been completed. Over the vast areas of the virgin-land oblasts of Kazakhstan and Siberia, machine operators are conducting mass retention of moisture in the soil. In many regions of the country, the work is being conducted simultaneously in the fields sown by both early and late crops. In particular, two-thirds of the total acreage are occupied with corn for grain. The sowing of this crop is being completed by the farms of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, and in the Ukraine, in Moldavia, and lower Volga valley the mass sowing is being continued. (1100)

Great significance this year is being attached to the production of oil-bearing crops; the state has raised purchase prices considerably for raw materials used in the production of vegetable oil. Naturally, the farms are expanding their acreages alotted to those crops, the most important of which is sunflower: it has been sown to 1.6 million hectares, which amounts to 41 percent of the plan. (1100)

The planting of sugar beet is coming to an end in the Ukraine, Belorussia, and some other union republics, and is only being started up in Altay. Harvesting of fodder crops has gotten underway in the south of the country; the machine operators of Kuban and other southern areas of the RSFSR and Ukraine are embarking on first harvesting of lucerne and rape. The corn fields are also being expanded this year, also because of the late spring. Valentin Sergeyevich Tsipov, director of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Corn Growing, cites the figure of acreage alotted in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast to corn for grain as 400,000 hectares and names some newly-selected quick-ripening hybrids: "kolektivnyy-210", "kollektivnyy-101". They have successfully withstood trials and are now being zoned in the areas where warm season is short. (1100)

Brest Oblast aims this year to obtain a further 18,000 metric tons of proteins over last year; about 10,000 metric tons of winter rape seed are to be harvested this year. Brest Oblast aims to bring average milk yields per cow in this 5-year plan to 4,000 kg. As concerns preparation of fodder harvesting equipment, the Ukraine was according to latest agro-industrial committee analyses 5 to 7 percent behind last year's rates. This has been largely due to a long winter. Donetsk Oblast is now achieving a milk yield per cow of 8 kg -- down from last year. The goal this year is to harvest 21 percent more fodder than last year. Perennial grasses now occupy 205,000 hectares; by the end of the year the oblast will have sown these on 43 percent of fodder land. Lucerne is now being sown. It is planned to obtain 36 quintals per hectare this year. Intensive techniques are to be expanded in growing corn for silage and fodder beet. The delay for repair of fodder-preparation equipment in the oblast is now down to 3 to 4 percent. (1145)

The poor weather has held up sowing in Rostov Oblast: of 2.24 million hectares, one-half has not yet been sown. There has been a shortfall in harvesting of succulent fodder and hay; measures are, therefore, being taken to lay in more fodder this year. The structure of sowing areas for fodder crops is being reviewed; in particular, production of plant proteins is to be stepped up. Perennial grasses, mainly lucerne for hay, haylage and vitamin meal, are to be sown on at least 160,000 hectares. No less than 70,000 hectares are to be sown with cereal-pulse mixtures; about 118,000 hectares are to be sown with pulses; rape-seed is being introduced; corn and fodder beet are also main fodder crops this year in the oblast. Radical land improvement is to be carried out on 48,000 hectares. There are 547 specialized teams working on fodder preparations. (1145)

14 May

In Pavlodar Oblast, spring sowing has began. This year grain crops will take up 1.8 million hectares -- more then half of the land will be taken up by wheat. Spring work has began in South Tyumen region. Grain crops this year are taking up 1.4 million hectares, and there are plans to double the sowing of wheat in comparison with last year. In Orel Oblast, potato planting is to take up 40,000 hectares. (0200)

In Kuban, nearly 1.5 million hectares have been sown with grain crops. (0204)

Several frosty days this spring have done sizeable damage to agriculture. Apricot and peach trees, which blossomed forth on many farms, have perished. Only 20 percent of vineyards were undamaged in Arat Valley. The seedlings of early vegetable crops also perished. They had to be resown. The Armenian Government took measures to make up for the losses sustained by the farms. (0830, Moscow TASS in English)

Grains are being sown in the Altay Kray at a rate of 100,000 hectares daily, including barley, oats, and wheat. (0900)

The Orel farmers are the first in central non-Chernozem Zone to complete sowing early spring and fodder crops. The late spring delayed the start of the sowing season by almost 3 weeks; thanks to the farmers' ample effort, they managed to sow grain crops to more than 600,000 hectares over just 7 days. (1300)

Further Statistics

LD132205 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] [Announcer] In the country's fields. At the microphone is our commentator, Aleksandr Ruvinskiy.

[Ruvinskiy] After a short cold spell at the end of last week, the sowing drive has once again built up a good pace. Today we received a USSR Central Statistical Administration report that, by 11 May, spring crops had been planted over 43.7 million hectares. That is 30 percent of the area to be sown to spring crops. I should point out that nearly two-fifths of that area were sown last week. The work proceeded apace in Rostov, Orenburg, and Volgograd Oblasts, in the Central Chernozem Region and in the south of the non-Chernozem Zone. In the European part of the country, in general, the sowing campaign has moved into the Ivanovo, Gorkiy, and Kirov Oblasts.

It is being carried out in all the autonomous republics along the Volga. The sowing of early cereals has already ended over quite a substantial area. This is the case in Moldavia, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Latvia, and Lithuania, on most farms in the North Caucasus, and in Khabarovsk Kray. Good shoots have appeared in many fields, and there is enough moisture in the soil for them to develop. In western Siberia and northern Kazakhstan, widespread work is now taking place to prepare the soil for spring sowing. In literally a few days, a massive sowing campaign will start here in the fields earmarked for spring wheat. This is the main region in which it is cultivated. So far, it occupies only 5 percent of its area in the country. Farms in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are finishing off the planting of corn for grain, while the widespread sowing of it is going on in the Ukraine and along the lower Volga. Sunflowers occupy 41 percent of their area. The plan for the sowing of this crop has been fulfilled in Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Moldavia, but in the Ukraine there is still a great deal of work to be done in the plantations where this valuable oil-yielding crop is grown. The sowing of sugar beets is practically completed in the Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Belorussia, and Kazakhstan. Cultivators in the Altay have embarked on it selectively. The soil in our potato-growing areas is warming up quite slowly this year. This has affected the pace of potato planting. So far, the plan for this work has been fulfilled by 29 percent.

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER WRITES ON VICTORY DAY

PM131831 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 May 87 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Article by Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff and first deputy defense minister of the USSR: "The Great Victory"]

[Text] May 9 is a special day in the history and life of our country. That day 42 years ago witnessed the victorious conclusion of the Great Patriotic War. The Soviet Armed Forces, together with the armies of allied countries, routed fascist Germany. Victory over fascism was achieved at the cost of incalculable losses and privations, heroic efforts, and self-sacrifice on the part of Soviet people. Under the Communist Party's leadership they defended their socialist motherland's freedom and independence, liberated the enslaved peoples of Europe from the Hitlerite yoke, and saved world civilization from fascist barbarity. It was a victory for the great Soviet state created by Lenin, the advanced social system, and its socialist economy.

Today's victory holiday is being marked in an atmosphere of creative reorganization of our society and nationwide struggle for restructuring and the implementation of the plans for speeding up the country's socioeconomic development drawn up on the basis of the decisions adopted at the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. Our new creative plans are based on the accomplishments of the enthusiasts of the first 5-year plans, the founders of powerful industry, the builders of collective agriculture, the creators of socialist culture. They rest on the foundations laid by the great victory over fascism. That is why all generations of Soviet people pay a tribute of deep respect to those who won it and remember with gratitude those who sacrificed their lives and shed their blood for the sake of a bright future.

I.

The path to victory traveled by the Soviet people and their Armed Forces was a long and arduous one. It entailed bitter, bloody fighting and severe trials and privations at the front line and in the rear.

Exploiting the resources of the enslaved countries of Europe and its satellites and mobilizing and deploying its armed forces well in advance, fascist Germany treacherously invaded our country, without declaration of war, on 22 June 1941. It was a difficult time for our people. The motherland stood in mortal danger. We suffered major defeats and setbacks. The enemy seized the Baltic, Belorussia, and a large part of the Ukraine and advanced to Moscow and Leningrad. Hitler's troops surged into the Caucasus.

The entire Soviet people rose at the Communist Party's behest to defend the socialist motherland. The country was turned into a single military camp. During the heroic defenses of Brest, Smolensk, Kiev, Odessa, and Leningrad and other battles dozens of enemy divisions were defeated. The enemy suffered heavy losses of men and materiel.

The great battles of Moscow, Leningrad, the Kursk Bulge, and the Dnepr were decisive events in the Great Patriotic War and World War II as a whole and ensured a fundamental breakthrough in the war. From the summer of 1943 the strategic initiative shifted to and remained with the Soviet Supreme High Command until the war's end. [paragraph continues]

Hitler's armed forces went over to strategic defense. The fascist bloc's disintegration began.

Subsequently the very large operations carried out by groups of Soviet Armed Forces fronts in 1944-45 in Leningrad, Belorussia, the Ukraine, and the Baltic, the crushing blows struck against the enemy in the battles to liberate Romania, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and other European states, and combat operations on German territory resulted in the utter defeat and destruction of Hitler's war machine.

Throughout the war the Soviet-German front was the main front in the armed struggle against the fascist aggressors. The main battles were fought there and the greatest military results achieved, results which determined the course and outcome of the whole of World War II. No inventions by imperialist falsifiers of history can call into question the decisive Soviet contribution to victory over Hitler's fascism. For almost 3 years the USSR Armed Forces fought the enemy singlehanded. The second front was opened when it became obvious that the Soviet Union was capable of routing fascist Germany on its own. It was the Soviet Armed Forces that, in a fierce armed struggle, crushed Hitler's war machine and liberated the enslaved peoples of many countries of Europe and Asia. Militarist Japan's defeat followed on that of fascist Germany.

The hundreds of strategic, front, and army operations skillfully executed by Soviet troops during the war years convincingly demonstrated the great skill of Soviet military leaders, the combat maturity of commanders and political workers, the high morale of Soviet servicemen, the high level of Soviet military art and science, and the strength and combat might of Soviet weapons.

The Soviet Union's victory in the war was inevitable. The foundations of victory lay in the socialist economic system, Soviet society's ideological and political unity, its cohesion around the Communist Party, the unshakable friendship of the fraternal peoples of the Soviet Union, and the strength of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

The Leninist Communist Party was Soviet people's proven leader, inspirer, and organizer in the Great Patriotic War. From the first days of the war to its end it was a fighting party. Communists were everywhere in the front ranks. At the front line, in the country's rear, and on territory temporarily occupied by the enemy the CPSU was a combat, mobilizing, and guiding force. The party Central Committee exercised comprehensive leadership of the armed struggle, which was combined with an equally intense economic, ideological, and diplomatic struggle. The party united and inspired the people's masses to struggle against the enemy, which was a decisive condition determining the great victory.

By defeating imperialism's strike forces and upholding socialism the Soviet people and their valiant Armed Forces taught a lesson to aggressors and all aspirants to world domination and demonstrated the recklessness and futility of imperialist designs.

The victory over Hitler's Germany and its satellites was achieved through the joint efforts of the peoples of many countries. Soviet people remember and properly value the selfless struggle waged against the fascist aggressors by the peoples of Britain, France, and the United States and deeply respect the contribution made to the common cause of victory by the peoples and armies of Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Albania, the patriots of Hungary, and members of the resistance movement and antifascist underground in other countries of Europe. The Chinese people and their People's Liberation Army made a major contribution to the defeat of Japanese militarism, and the people's liberation forces of Vietnam, Korea, and other Asian countries also played an active part here.

II.

The chief historical lesson of World War II is that it is necessary to wage a tireless and vigorous struggle against war before it begins.

The terrible threat of war has loomed over our country and the world as a whole more than once since the war. Sinister plans for a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union have repeatedly been drawn up in the United States. Their implementation could have led the world to an irreparable catastrophe. But thanks to peace-loving forces' vigilance, the imperialists have been unable to launch a large war. For 42 years now the Soviet poeple and the peoples of Europe and other continents have lived in conditions of peace ensured thanks to the CPSU's peace-loving Leninist foreign policy course and as a result of the Soviet people's heroic labor, the successes of Soviet science and technology, and the maintenance of the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces and the fraternal socialist countries' armies at the requisite level.

The 27th CPSU Congress laid down the foreign policy goals and tasks of the CPSU and Soviet state. They are aimed at strengthening peace, ending the arms race, and maintaining military equilibrium between the USSR and the United States and the Warsaw Pace and NATO bloc at the lowest possible level. The 27th CPSU Congress particularly stressed the /defensive thrust of Soviet military doctrine/. [passage between slantlines published in boldface] The USSR has stated that it will never be the first to use nuclear weapons.

The Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee confirmed in Budapest in June 1986 that the Warsaw Pact countries will under no circumstances initiate hostilities against any state or military alliance unless they are themselves the object of attack. This orientation in the allied socialist states' policy stems objectively from the nature of their social system and their desire for peace.

The Soviet Union and its allies unreservedly reject war as a means of resolving interstate political and economic contradictions and ideological disputes. They are convinced opponents of war in any form. The allied socialist states proceed from the premise that in present-day conditions neither nuclear nor conventional must in any circumstances be allowed, it must not be unleashed. Nuclear war can only lead to mankind's destruction. A world war involving the use of conventional means will, if it is launched by an aggressor, also bring mankind incalculable and even unpredictable disasters and suffering.

The Soviet Union and its allies proceed from the conviction that no world problems including the historical dispute between socialism and capitalism, can be resolved by military means.

This approach to solving the problems of war and peace is the firm conviction of all the Soviet people. In the struggle for peace Soviet people of all nationalities, Communists, nonparty people, citizens, and military personnel all wholly support the peace policy elaborated by the 27th CPSU Congress.

The foreign policy of the Communist Party and Soviet state is aimed at obstructing the path to war, halting the arms race, and securing a peaceful life for the peoples. This is its chief objective.

The persistent search for ways to maintain the military equilibrium at the lowest possible level, to create an all-embracing international security system, to eliminate nuclear arms, and to reduce armed forces and conventional arms is an expression of deep awareness of the fundamentally new situation obtaining in the nuclear space age and a law-governed development of Soviet foreign policy. The peace initiatives of our party and state formulated in recent years are directed toward this.

The times have past when the leaders of the NATO bloc countries could refuse to examine the Soviet Union's proposals in detail, dismissing them as mere propaganda.

However, even now they are generally not prepared to hold constructive talks. While verbally acknowledging the importance of the USSR's peace proposals, in practice the U.S. Administration continues to pile up one obstacle after another in the way of building a nuclear-free world.

Essentially opposing the Soviet Union's proposed program for the phased elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, discarding the 1972 Interim Agreement on the Limitation of Strategic Arms (SALT I) and the SALT II Treaty, and seeking to revise the ABM Treaty, reactionary forces in the United States and certain of the allied NATO countries are working not to curb the arms race or limit their military programs in any way but to create [sozdat], test, and put strike weapons into outer space. The thesis that the peoples' security can only be secured by creating more and more new sophisticated weapons systems -- both nuclear and conventional -- is still widely propounded in the United States and other NATO countries. It is even claimed that Europe owes its long peace solely to the nuclear arms race and that it alone can guarantee future security. "Counting on nuclear deterrence," M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed during his visit to Prague in April, "is extremely dangerous... We consider the very thought that mankind is condemned to live under the constant, implacable threat of self-destruction to be criminal. Counting on the retention of nuclear weapons is tantamount to depriving people of hope for the future."

The arms race and military rivalry have caused wars in the past. Now, when many tens of thousands of nuclear warheads have been stockpiled, the desire to further increase their numbers and improve nuclear weapons is both absurd and criminal. This is a self-evident truth. However, influential imperialist circles bent on world domination still refuse to understand this. The Reagan administration "has discovered an imbalance" in armaments between the United States and the USSR in the Soviet Union's favor. Using this deliberate untruth as a cover, the U.S. leadership is intent on considerably augmenting its nuclear arsenal by the end of the eighties and transferring the arms race to outer space. Here the task is, on the one hand, to protect U.S. territory beneath multilayered ABM defenses and thereby deprive the USSR of the ability to deliver a counterstrike in the event of nuclear aggression against it, while, on the other hand, deploying in outer space new strategic strike means which, combined with strategic offensive forces, would afford the United States, now rendered "invulnerable," the opportunity to constantly threaten the Soviet Union. All this is being done to smash the military equilibrium existing between the USSR and the United States and the Warsaw Pact and the NATO bloc and achieve military superiority. But they will fail in this. The Soviet Union will not allow the existing military equilibrium to be reached.

In present-day conditions it is possible to prevent world war -- whether nuclear or conventional -- only by the joint efforts of all countries and peoples. After all, the victory over the Nazis, who intended to reverse the course of history and establish on earth their own racist "new order" aimed against mankind, was won only thanks to the concerted efforts of the peoples of the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition. The coalition was a truly great union of fighters against the fascist scourge. The blood jointly shed by Soviet, British, French, American, Chinese and many other people showed that no differences of political or social system or divergences of views can serve as obstacles when the peoples are faced with terrible danger. That is how it was during the war against fascism and Japanese militarism. The situation is different today. But in the face of the threat of nuclear catastrophe a great union of all forces fighting for peace, a sensible policy, and a desire to achieve accords for the sake of peace on our planet on the part of the state leaders of states belonging to different social systems is vitally necessary for mankind.

Only an active peace policy ensuring that war is averted can simultaneously ensure a creative life and mankind's activity. The transition to such a policy demands a radical break with the way of thinking and acting in the international arena that has existed for centuries. Nowadays it is impossible to ensure security merely by improving one's sword and shield, even if they are a space sword and shield.

The colossal quantities of nuclear weapons are becoming useless from a military standpoint, since they cannot be used without catastrophic consequences for the whole of mankind. And if the United States and the other NATO countries are really concerned about the fate of peace, they should switch from words to actions -- the actions proposed by the Soviet Union in its peace initiatives -- and abandon their futile attempts to make us disarm unilaterally.

The security of each state is directly dependent on the security of all. It can only be achieved by limiting and reducing armaments and strengthening confidence-building measures and international cooperation among countries.

III.

The military threat from imperialism, the desire of aggressive forces to change to their advantage the military equilibrium prevailing in the world, and the attempts by reactionary strata to forcibly impose on the Soviet Union and its allies arrangements in the world that they deem convenient require that the Soviete Armed Forces be maintained at a level that ensures our homeland and its allies are reliably defended.

The Soviet Union keeps a careful watch on imperialism's military preparations and detects and duly evaluates any dangerous trends in this process. The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government do every thing necessary to protect our people and the peoples of allied countries from any surprises stemming from the aggressive plans of bellicose reactionary forces and ensure that the country's defense potential is maintained at the necessary level. Our princple is to maintain the Armed Forces and our military potential in a state of rough military equiplibrium and at a level sufficient to ensure reliable defense of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact states.

The Army and Navy are equipped in line with these precepts. Our country is capable of resolving any scientific or technical task to prevent superiority from being achieved over us on earth or in space. The Soviet Army and Navy possess modern armaments today. [paragraph continues]

Troops and naval forces are equipped with various kinds of missiles, armored vehicles, artillery, and modern warplanes, air defense facilities, surface ships, and submarines. We have everything we need to ensure our defense and maintain the military equilibrium. But this is not the mythical "overarmament" imputed to us by propaganda in the West. In no kind of weapon do we seek one-sided military advantages for ourselves or try to outmaneuver the other side with the aim of acquiring "superior force."

Bourgeois propaganda's attempts to portray the Soviet Army as a force posing a threat to other states are rebutted by the truth. The truth is that in the 69 years of their existence the Soviet Armed Forces have never acted as an aggressor or waged wars of aggression and have always solely defended the cause of freedom and independence of their people.

The defensive orientation of Soviet military doctrine presupposes high combat readiness on the part of the Soviet Armed Forces to repulse potential aggression. Our Armed Forces are maintained in such a state of readiness. But this is not done in order to attack anyone but to repulse potential aggression and defend our motherland and its allies.

Defensive counteroperations to repulse enemy aggression form the main element in training our troops and naval forces. They are taught how to conduct combat operations vigorously and resolutely to defeat the aggressor. The personnel are trained to be ever ready to discharge their duty if aggression is launched by imperialist states. The principle of teaching them what they need in a combat situation remains basic to the combat training of troops and naval forces.

The USSR Armed Forces today constitute one of the main factors restraining the aggressive aspirations of reactionary imperialist circles and serve to a guarantee international security. And no matter how hard imperialism's propaganda forces try, they will never succeed in belittling the Soviet Armed Forces' prestige or defaming their glorious combat history and their role and mission today as the army defending socialism, peace, and the security of the peoples.

The Soviet Armed Forces servicemen are preparing to greet the 70th anniversary of the Great October revolution in worthy fashion.

Inspired by the historic decisions adopted by the 27th CPSU Congress, unswervingly following Lenin's behests to defend the socialist fatherland, and restructuring their activity in tune with the demands of the time, our Army and Navy servicemen continue to see their main task as being to reliably ensure a peaceful life for Soviet people and the peoples of fraternal countries. Our party's conclusion that the Soviet Union aspires to no greater security than others but will never assent to any lesser security either serves for them as a program guide to action.

The crushing blows struck by the Soviet Armed Forces in the spring of 1945 marked the end of the fascist Reich. The strike detachment of imperialism -- Hitler's fascism and militarist Japan -- which had encroached on the freedom and independence of our motherland and other freedom-loving countries and wanted to bring the whole world to its knees, was routed, destroyed, and consigned to the scrapheap of history. The aggressors were taught a harsh but just lesson.

Today the sons and grandsons of the heroes of the Great Patriotic War are performing their combat duty in the Soviet Armed Forces.

Continuing the glorious traditions of the participants in the Great Patriotic War, boundlessly devoted to their people, the Communist Party, and the Soviet Government, they mount watchful guard over Soviet people's peaceful, creative labor, socialism, and peace.

GENERAL KOVTUNOV OF ARMY CADRES DIRECTORATE DIES

PM141301 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 May 87 First Edition p 5

[Obituary of Lieutenant General G.N. Kovtunov]

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Georgiy Nikitovich Kovtunov, chief of a directorate under the USSR Defense Ministry Main Directorate for Cadres [title as published] has died suddenly. He devoted his entire life to selflessly serving the socialist motherland and the cause of the Communist Party, whose ranks he joined in 1941.

G.N. Kovtunov was born in 1918 in Orekhovka Village in Alekseyevskiy Rayon, Kuybyshev Oblast into a worker's family. After completing secondary school he volunteered for the Red Army in 1936 and advanced through the ranks from cadet to lieutenant general. [passage omitted]

[Signed] S.L. Sokolov, S.F. Akhromeyev, V.G. Kulikov, P.G. Lushev, A.D. Lizichev, Yu.P. Maksimov, Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, A.I. Koldunov, A.N. Yefimov, V.N. Chernavin, I.M. Tretyak, S.K. Kurkotkin, V.M. Shabanov, N.F. Shestopalov, V.L. Govorov, D.T. Yazov, A.I. Sorokin, V.I. Petrov, S.G. Gorshkov, V.F. Tolubko, I.N. Shkadov, V.A. Goncharov, K.Ya. Kurochkin, V.N. Dutov, V.A. Shatalov, A.S. Tsygankov, A.K. Mironov, N.R. Andreyev, O.S. Kupriyanov, M.I. Makarychev.